

## CHAPLIN

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# THE TIMES

No. 64,506

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

50p

## Reagan, at Oxford, joins the call for action against Serbia



Ronald Reagan proposed air strikes against Serbia and accused Nato of refusing to "cross the street" to stop wholesale slaughter when he addressed the Oxford Union yesterday. Reagan speech, page 3; Leading article, page 13

### Owen fears conflict in Bosnia may spill over

By MICHAEL EVANS

NATO was warned yesterday to start making contingency plans in the event of a spreading Balkan war. Lord Owen, co-chairman of the peace conference on the former Yugoslavia, told alliance ambassadors in Brussels that he feared that the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina could spill over into neighbouring countries.

Lord Owen was said to have described developments as "grave and sombre" and told the ambassadors the West had better be ready to deal with the consequences. In London Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, warned the Serbs against using force in Kosovo, where two million ethnic Albanians live. Foreign Office sources said Mr Hogg's words should not be taken as implying a readiness to send troops to fight the Serbs. But Serbian aggression in Kosovo would not be tolerated and the UN would have to decide what steps should be taken, the sources said.

In Washington, the US administration was consulting allies on a possible UN resolution authorising the use of force to stop Serbian violations of the no-fly zone over Bosnia.

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## Insurers seek bomb cover safety-net

By SARAH BAGNALL  
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

IN THE face of the most sustained IRA campaign since the seventies, British insurers were trying last night to put together a package to pressurise the government into underwriting the costs of mainland bombings.

The decision of large foreign reinsurers to cease offering cover from next year to insurers such as Commercial Union and General Accident for claims arising from terrorism in the United Kingdom has panicked the industry and deeply concerned the government. Downing Street officials yesterday threw some light on private talks between the insurers and ministers to say that the government still wanted a commercial solution. It is determined to resist the insurers' pressure.

The authorities fear that the wrangle has delivered a propaganda victory to the IRA. Police and the security services were deeply dismayed when the proposal to withdraw cover was first mooted three weeks ago.

The issue is rising rapidly up the Whitehall agenda, with the IRA in the midst of a concerted bombing campaign in the run-up to Christmas. The IRA yesterday admitted responsibility for Thursday's bombs in Manchester, which injured 64 people.

As forensic specialists sifted through wreckage yesterday, the city seemed determined to

Ministers are determined to resist insurers' pressure to provide a cash safety net for companies whose premises have been wrecked by terrorist bomb blasts



return to normal. Streets were crowded and shops reported that busy pre-Christmas trading had largely returned.

One man injured by flying glass in the second explosion was still detained in Manchester Royal Infirmary yesterday but his condition gave no cause for concern.

The bombs are estimated to have caused about £13 million of damage, including claims for the interruption of business. The bomb which devastated the City of London in April caused £800 million

worth of damage, more than the total paid by the government during the past twenty-four years of bombings in Northern Ireland.

A mainland compensation scheme along the lines of the one operating in Northern Ireland, in which the taxpayer meets the cost of all terrorist-inspired criminal damage to property above a threshold of £20, is not being contemplated. That scheme has cost about £580 million since 1969.

Michael Heseltine, the president of the board of trade, is expected to hold further talks with business leaders from insurance, retail and property interests next week. He will then consult the prime minister and cabinet colleagues about the terms of a possible solution.

Mr Heseltine was careful yesterday not to rule out some form of government assistance while emphasising that his prime objective was to find an answer in the worldwide reinsurance market. He said on BBC television that there was "a willingness to discuss these matters further".

"I am told by people in the insurance industry that there are things certainly that need

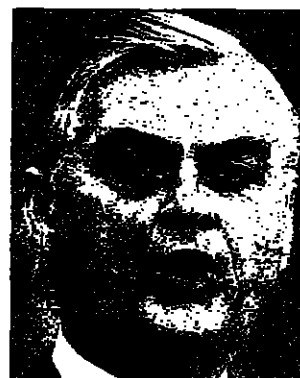
to be examined. I am also well aware that large risks can be covered in the insurance market. Large sums of money are at risk and we have to find ways in which the market can cover those to the greatest possible extent."

This appeared to be a hint that ministers are considering proposals from John Greenway, the Tory MP who chairs the all-party financial services committee, for the Treasury to pay for claims above a set ceiling.

The Times understands that ministers remain deeply reluctant to bale out the insurers and are engaged in an apparent game of brinkmanship. The government is concerned to avoid an open-ended commitment at a time of tight budgets. It is working against the clock because, as commercial insurance policies come up for renewal from January 1, they will carry a terrorism exclusion clause. Some companies could face bankruptcy as a result of a terrorist bombing.

The possibility of a market solution involving government aid was discussed in private on Tuesday at a meeting of insurance industry officials and Neil Hamilton, junior minister at the trade and industry department. The proposal discussed was that the market would provide insurance up to a ceiling of about £250 million and

Continued on page 2, col 7  
Ulster's £70m bill, page 2



Lamont: "absolute no" to changing position

### Lamont rules out job swap

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont made clear yesterday that he would not accept another post in the cabinet, in a move aimed at quashing speculation of a new year reshuffle.

The chancellor, who has been under political and media pressure since sterling's forced exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism nearly three months ago, said that there was "absolutely no" other position in government that interested him.

Although Downing Street officials have insisted that John Major has given no thought to a reshuffle, Tory MPs have canvassed possibilities such as a swap involving Mr Lamont and Kenneth Clarke. But his interview with the *Wall Street Journal* was a clear sign that he would not be party to such changes. Mr Lamont appeared to be telling his colleagues that he would either stay as chancellor or leave the government.

### Bush says Somalia aid is 'God's work'

By MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS

PRESIDENT Bush yesterday ordered the sending of up to 28,000 American troops to Somalia to prevent mass starvation in the country. Britain also agreed to contribute two Hercules transport aircraft for the operation, believed to be the world's largest armed humanitarian relief mission.

In a televised address to the nation, Mr Bush called Operation Restore Hope "God's work". He said US troops would not stay one day longer than necessary and had no intention of imposing a political settlement on Somalia. However, the troops had been authorised to use force to

safeguard their own lives and those of innocent Somalis.

An amphibious task force led by the USS *Triumph* with 1,800 marines is anchored off Mogadishu. They are expected to land by helicopter to secure the airfield and port early next week for the arrival of the rest of the US force.

The two British planes from RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire were offered after a specific request for assistance from Washington. No British ground troops will be involved in Somalia.

US troops sent, page 9  
Simon Jenkins, page 12

## Prince sympathises with French farmers over Gatt

By ALAN HAMILTON

IGNORING the official line of his government and the gut feelings of his compatriots, the Prince of Wales yesterday offered his philosophical support to French farmers. He was speaking in Paris, surrounded by Frenchmen, and accepting a French honour.

The prince, in one of his occasional intellectual forays into the meaning of life and the future of Western civilisation, indicated that an unbridled market economy, as practised by the European Community, was killing tradition and the rural way of life, as practised by the Gallic *peasant*. He was speaking in the distinctly urbane setting of the French Academy of

Political and Moral Sciences, of which he was installed as a foreign associate member for his work as a late twentieth-century man and an avowed European.

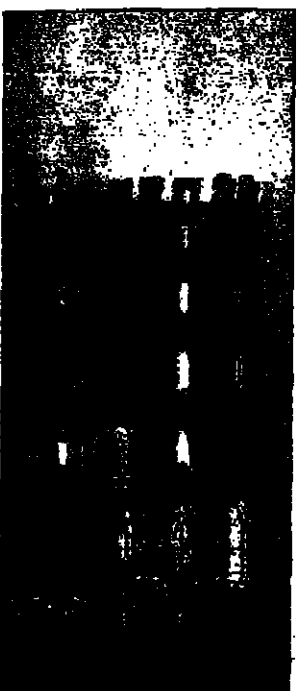
He opened his address defensively, saying he had been warned not to mention the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), the EC budget, Maastricht or sheep meat. He proceeded to do so, if obliquely, to the subsequent consternation of MPs on both sides of the political divide. In a lengthy discourse on the need to find a new moral philosophy for modern life that would replace the sterility of Marxism, the prince said that the workings of

human society were still profoundly influenced by prevailing scientific orthodoxy.

"Because of the imperatives of trade, and the unyielding rigours of 'comparative advantage', do we really need to compress the traditions and vitality of rural life and culture into the straitjacket of an industry like any other?" the prince asked in fluent, if slightly accented, French.

"One of the joys for me of being in France is that you have a particularly strong sense of those traditions — and of the ultimate cost to the

Continued on page 2, col 1  
Bumper harvest, page 7  
Photograph, page 10



Flashback: Windsor Castle ablaze

### Spotlight blamed

NO INDIVIDUAL blame is apportioned for the devastating fire at Windsor Castle in the official report released yesterday by Buckingham Palace.

The report, produced by police, forensic experts and fire officers, concludes that the blaze two weeks ago was started by a spotlight which overheated a curtain on the first floor of the private chapel close to the altar.

The Queen has seen the report which considered seven possible causes before deciding that the electric light heated the curtains to the extent that they burst into flames. Last night Buckingham Palace welcomed the report.

Report details, page 3

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## Students call for flexible two-term academic year

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

THE NATIONAL Union of Students will next week call for a two-term academic year and for maintenance grants to be linked to individual study "modules", rather than rigid three-year courses.

The union is to launch a student's charter on Monday, intended to trump government plans to impose voluntary membership of the NUS in its Further and Higher Education Charter, to be published in the new year. The NUS policy overhaul is expected to recommend a more flexible approach to student finance in which grants would

Two reports on university education are expected to discuss radical changes in the academic year and the funding of maintenance grants for students

be awarded on the basis of the academic modules students signed up for, rather than the duration of their courses.

Such a system would benefit those who take time off from their degrees, and would enable students to seek temporary jobs between modules, already a common practice in the United States. It is understood that the NUS charter will also call for compensation

to be paid to students whose grants arrive late, and for the appointment of an education ombudsman.

The shift of policy on student finance, one of the union's doctrinal foundations, is the heart of the modernisation programme launched by its president, Lorna Finlayson, which will be discussed at its first national council on Wednesday.

In its most dramatic policy review since the 1960s, the NUS is expected to endorse a restructured academic year, with students attending university or college for two of three 15-week terms. The union now recognises that two-year "fast-track" courses are inevitable, as higher education expands and the funding councils press for more efficient use of resources.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said yesterday that it would study the plans in detail. "Modularity is the coming thing and linking it with funding is a novel idea," a spokesman said. An investiga-

tion into the future of the academic year, headed by Lord Flowers, is due to publish its interim report in April. The Universities Funding Council said yesterday that NUS support for modular courses was to be welcomed. "The council is trying to encourage initiatives that increase the flexibility in course provision, particularly for mature students who might not want the whole of three years' study," a spokesman said.

The student charter sets out what are described as a series of rights which students should be entitled to and concludes: "They are based on principles which we believe to

be sound ones: quality, choice, equivalence and equal opportunities. They are not dissimilar to the principles laid out in the citizen's charter. This charter is a challenge to the government. We have set down a series of rights for individual students together with collective enforcement. If the government tinkers with minor alterations, students will feel cheated."

The union will sell the charter to its membership as a challenge to the government, balancing individual rights with collective enforcement.

Bright young things, page 3

### Patient's charter

## Minister aims to cut waiting time with new GP guidelines

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS will be entitled to a rapid response to complaints under new standards for general practitioner services announced yesterday.

GPs will also be asked to set local standards for their own practices, specifying maximum waiting times to see a doctor in the surgery or to contact one by telephone in an emergency.

The standards, which extend the patient's charter to primary care and include prompt help with changing one's doctor, were announced yesterday by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, and take effect next April. "We have had notable success in

driving down waiting times and improving the quality of information available about the NHS through the patient's charter," she said. "This development of the charter will help to level up standards in primary care to those of the best."

Under the charter, family health services authorities will have two days to find a GP for anyone not registered with one. They will also be required to send within the same time details of how to change doctors and a list of those in the area to anyone who asks for advice. Medical records must be transferred within six weeks or within two days if required urgently.

Complaints must be acknowledged within two days and cleared within a month if dealt with informally, or six months if they require a committee hearing. Both patient and doctor must be given monthly progress reports until the complaint is cleared.

The patient's charter cannot compel GPs to adhere to national standards because they are independent contractors. However, health authorities are asked to provide guidelines to encourage GPs to set out what patients can expect.

As well as covering waiting times, arrangements for contacting a doctor and dealing with complaints, there should be standards for the way in which they pass on results of tests, health promotion work, facilities for people with children and disabled people and services for ethnic minorities.

The British Medical Association said the charter would help all GPs reach the standard of the best. Since the patient's charter for hospital services was introduced last April, two-year waiting lists have been cleared and health authorities are working to cut waiting lists to 18 months in some specialties.

Phobia clinic, page 6

### French farmers defended

Continued from page 1

human spirit of unrelenting migration from the countryside to the big cities," France, he said, had set others an inspiring example of civilised values perpetuated and nurtured within an overall cultural approach to life.

Those were underpinned, he said, "by giving due importance to the kind of rural traditions without which it would be impossible to enjoy a way of life that recognises — both in the countryside and the town — the importance of elements in our lives which enrich and ennoble us, but which are not cost-effective in strictly economic terms."

Quoting sources from Adam Smith to Guy de Maupassant, the prince confirmed himself to be a less than total disciple of *laissez-faire* Thatcherite economics, and more of a committed environmentalist.

"We continue to base our economic practices on the pursuit of growth, in a manner which is not only unsustainable in ecological terms, but also incurs a host of other costs — growing wealth differentials, an unhealed divide between north and south, a horrendous debt burden, and the creation of an underclass in many industrialised countries," he said.

The prince's remarks struck a responsive chord at the National Farmers' Union, where there is much sympathy for French farmers' fears about the impact of a Gatt settlement if not always for the manner in which they express them (Michael Hornby writes).

David Naish, the union's president, said last night: "I will be seeing the prime minister on Monday and will be telling him of our concern about the effect of agricultural policy on the fabric of rural life."

Bumper harvest, page 7  
Photograph, page 10



Light of hope: Elma Foric, five, whose home in the village of Kozarac, Bosnia, was burned down, yesterday looking forward to a new life. She and her family have been brought to Britain by the Leeds-based charity Alert so that Elma can have a kidney operation  
1st AID appeal, page 11, leading article, page 13

## Heads condemn tests at 14 as bureaucratic monster

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of the state school with the best examination results in England led an assault by 17 leading selective schools yesterday on the government's plans for 14 to 16-year-olds.

In a joint letter to *The Times* and other newspapers, the heads echoed many of the criticisms made by independent schools last month of testing and curriculum changes. They said tests at 14 were a bureaucratic monster in the making and that subjects such as art, music and the classics were under threat in the state sector.

The criticism came as edu-

cation ministers were accused by Sir Malcolm Thornton, Conservative chairman of the Commons select committee on education, of allowing right-wing pressure groups to influence education policy unduly.

Ministerial sources denied that Conservative think-tanks were dictating policy. Keith Howard, head of Queen Mary's Grammar School, Walsall, which had the best combined GCSE and A-level results of all English state schools, wrote a month ago to Baroness Blatch, the education minister, complaining that the new curriculum beyond the age of 14 was too

prescriptive. She replied this week that schools had a "significant element of flexibility" and should organise the curriculum to meet their own requirements.

Mr Howard and colleagues from other West Midlands grammar schools said that the curriculum risked becoming a straitjacket. Statutory requirements left virtually no time for other subjects. "The rich variety which should be on offer to all pupils, and certainly to academically gifted pupils, will be under threat and could result in an impoverishment of academic provision in the maintained sector."

### Protest at 'snoop' cameras

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S largest network of city-centre surveillance cameras was switched on yesterday amid calls for legislation to provide strict controls over who uses them.

Businesses in Newcastle upon Tyne and the city council, which have split the £300,000 cost between them, reject suggestions of snooping, saying their aim is to reduce crime.

But Liberty, the civil liberties pressure group, is concerned that there are no legal constraints on such systems. "We are not against the idea in principle," Alison Vickers, a spokesman said. "But at present there is no statutory regulation. There are no restraints on who operates them, who has access to the videotapes or how long they are kept."

"Would they be used during political demonstrations? These are matters the Home Office should be addressing as more and more of these systems come into use."

Gordon Allanson, manager of Eldon Square shopping centre, said visitors no longer considered the cameras a threat. "Attitudes have changed and people will look on the cameras as a benefit, making them feel safer and more comfortable," he said.

Pictures from the 16 cameras will be fed to a control room at the city's central police station. Supt Peter Durham, who is in charge of the operation, said only one person had suggested they might infringe civil liberties.

## Anglican shrine bans women priests

The first "no go area" for women priests was declared in the Church of England yesterday (Ruth Gledhill writes). Senior churchmen decided to ban women priests from taking services at the Walsingham shrine, England's premier place of pilgrimage.

More than 25 shrine guardians met in London yesterday and agreed on the ban. They included John Gummer, agriculture minister, who resigned from the General Synod this week, and Dr Graham Leonard, the former Bishop of London, who plans to join the Roman Catholic Church. Walsingham is a focal point for Anglo-Catholics, who are jeered by protesters each May when they process behind a statue of the Virgin Mary. The shrine also attracts thousands of evangelical and liberal Anglicans, as well as pilgrims from other denominations.

The guardians said in a statement: "We do not accept the unilateral decision to admit women to the priesthood and therefore women priests will not officiate at the shrine." Credo, page 7

### Barracks security alert

One of Britain's largest military bases was the target yesterday of two suspected shooting incidents. Police said they were keeping an "open mind" about possible terrorist activity at Catterick garrison in North Yorkshire in the wake of the bombing of Manchester city centre on Thursday but a massive search was carried out by soldiers and police all day. In the first incident at about 3am on the camp's perimeter at Waiwath, a sentry fired several rounds at intruders who were thought to be armed. Police said they could have been poachers. There have been 17 reports of poachers in the area recently. Just after day break, a shot was reportedly fired from a passing car close to the Helles barracks, but police believe that it might have been the vehicle backing. They appealed for the driver of a blue Ford Escort to come forward.

### Designer's fatal slip

Oliver Gregory, a co-founder of Habitat, died in a shotgun accident when he slipped on wet grass as he shot at birds attacking his doves, an inquest was told. Mr Gregory, a designer aged 62, was found on the lawn of his home in Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, by his wife, Sue, and Fred Palmer, a gardener, on November 23. Mrs Gregory told the inquest, in Salisbury, Wiltshire, that when she first saw the body she thought it was a tramp. "I came into the house to get Oliver but I could not find him and it dawned on me that the person I had seen was Oliver. I became hysterical and rushed out into the garden. I think I must have fainted." John Elgar, the coroner, recorded a verdict of misadventure.

### Jilted lover jailed

A salesman who raped and tortured his former lover in front of her two children was jailed for six years at the Old Bailey yesterday. Judge Neil Denison QC was told how the jilted man drugged the 21-year-old and held her captive in a hotel room along with the children, aged four and one. The woman, who had ended the four-year relationship three weeks earlier, was bound and handcuffed. During repeated sexual assaults, the 31-year-old attacker used an electric stun gun and at one point held a knife to the baby girl's throat to stop her mother screaming. Judge Denison said that the man carried out "a horrifying series of sexual assaults designed to humiliate her".

### Taxman nets records

Cricket records from 1772-96 have been used to pay an inheritance tax demand. The minutes, subscription and account books of Hambledon cricket club, regarded as the birthplace of the modern game, will be displayed at Hampshire county record office. They belonged to Sir Alan and Lady Lobbock. One of her ancestors was a steward at the club and the records were accepted by the Museums and Galleries Commission in lieu of £39,210 tax. The commission recently accepted a Bugatti.

### Lorry drivers hijacked

A lorry driver was yesterday hijacked at gunpoint and taken on a five-hour drive by thieves who stole his vehicle and its load, together worth £100,000. The driver was about to go to sleep when he was attacked in a lorry park near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Police found him on the hard shoulder of the M6 nearly 250 miles away. In a separate incident, hijackers who took a lorry driver on a two-hour ride in a car boot after stealing his load released him after giving him £5 for his taxi fare home.

### Doctor blinded wife

A jealous doctor who blinded his wife by stabbing out her eyes in front of their daughter was jailed for 12 years at the Old Bailey yesterday. The sentence was criticised as too lenient by Rookhane Haroon-Qadri, 30, who said: "He's sentenced me to a life of darkness." Mrs Haroon-Qadri, of West Norwood, south London, who wanted a divorce from her arranged marriage, added: "I've got life but he's only been sentenced to a short term." Hassan Qadri, 40, admitted causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

### Insurers join battle

Continued from page 1

that the government would guarantee cover above that.

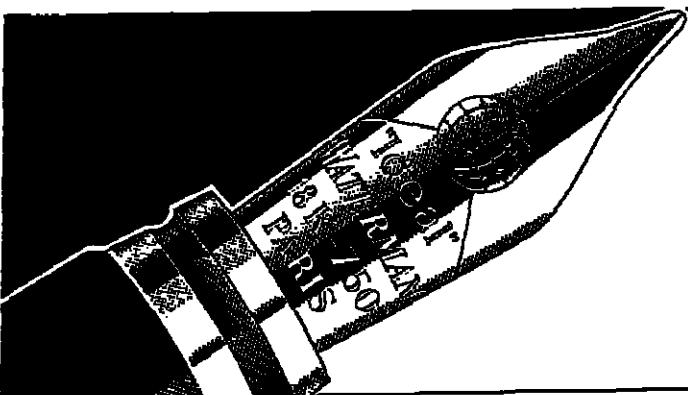
Present at the meeting were Ian Rushton, chairman of the Association of British Insurers, Peter Ward, general manager at Commercial Union, Ruth Bailey and Cooper Mitchell on behalf of the British Institute of Insurance Brokers Association (BIIBA), Martin Taylor, of Hanson, and John Pollard on behalf of the Confederation of British Industry, and Liz Taylor for the Association of Insurance and Risk Managers.

Mr Hamilton gave a clear message that the government was prepared to consider a deal. BIIBA and Lloyd's bro-

kers are meeting to try to agree a deal to set up a discretionary fund to provide initial cover of £250 million.

Who will contribute to the fund is unclear. One suggestion is that policy holders provide half the required amount by paying an extra 5 per cent in commercial insurance premiums, with the remainder provided by the insurers. If the government stepped in, foreign reinsurers might be enticed back into taking a finite risk.

The British Retail Consortium, whose members are most exposed to the IRA campaign, is meeting next week to agree a package to put to Mr Heseltine.



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# Investigators find that nobody was to blame for multi-million pound castle blaze

## Spotlight near curtain started Windsor fire, enquiry decides

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE fire that destroyed a large part of Windsor Castle two weeks ago was probably caused by a spotlight accidentally setting light to a curtain in the private chapel. The official report into the blaze, delivered to the Queen and made known yesterday, concludes that no individual was to blame.

Buckingham Palace has welcomed the report, saying that no further investigation into the incident is necessary. The palace said it had no plans at present to take legal action against any contractors involved in the renovation project under way at Windsor. Police, forensic scientists and fire officers spent eight days investigating the wreckage in the northeast corner of the castle's Upper Ward and conducted more than 100 interviews. Their brief, one-and-a-half-page report confirms that the fire started close to the altar of the first-floor private chapel.

Investigators ruled out any suggestion that the fire might have been started deliberately. They also eliminated the possibilities of a discarded cigarette, faults in electrical equipment or circuits, or the fire having spread from an external source.

The report quashes the suggestion in some newspa-

**Royal staff will meet fire and heritage experts next week to discuss measures to prevent a repetition of the Windsor disaster at other historic properties**

pers that the culprit was an art restorer who sprayed inflammable solvent near a hot lamp. Art restoration played no part in the blaze, the investigators state.

Palace officials were at pains yesterday to clear the name of Viola Pemberton-Pigott, a picture restorer working for the royal collection, whom some newspapers named as having caused the fire. "We are pleased that the report effectively exonerates her and her colleagues in the royal collection department of any blame," the palace said. "Her contribution to the salvage operation in initially raising the alarm, and ensuring that the contents of the private chapel were so quickly removed to safety, is much appreciated."

The offending spotlight, sited at a high level in the chapel, is understood to have been part of the permanent lighting system and to have been recently refitted. When the fire began the chapel was being used to store pictures, moved there while redecoration and rewiring was carried out in adjoining apartments.

and the report suggests that a large picture pushed a curtain close to the spotlight.

The pictures had been there for three months. Some were being restored, but no work was being carried out on them at the time of the blaze.

Officials of the royal household, the national heritage department and fire prevention experts will meet next week to discuss the report and what measures might be introduced to prevent a similar disaster in other royal palaces and buildings.

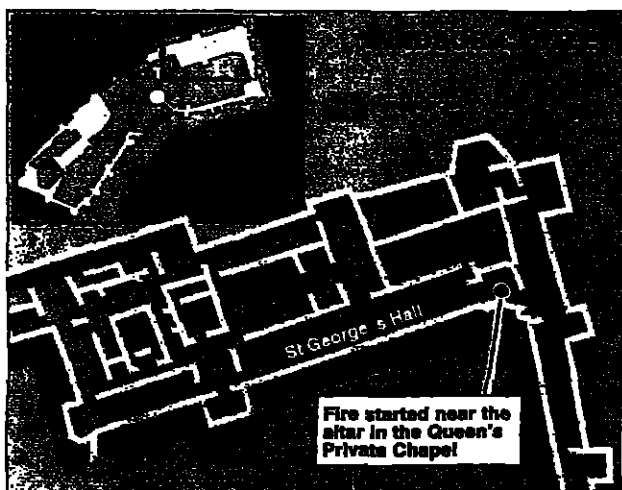
The Fire Protection Association, which represents fire insurers, yesterday welcomed the Windsor report as "obviously very professional and thorough", but regretted that the recommendations of its report drawn up after the fire at Hampton Court in 1986 had not been fully observed. "They put in a very good fire-detection system at Windsor, but there was a delay in calling the fire brigade, and they were resistant to the idea of sprinklers, which undoubtedly would have contained the fire at its point of origin," the association said.

With the exception of Sir William Beechey's vast canvas of George III reviewing his troops, a large Regency sideboard, a Victorian carpet and several pieces of porcelain, the important contents of Windsor were saved. But the damage to the fabric of the building was enormous. Some unofficial estimates put the cost of reconstruction as high as £60 million. The palace and national heritage department refuse to put a figure, or a time scale, on what will be one of the largest and most challenging heritage restoration projects.

Diary, page 12



Night of flames... and the aftermath: the Queen inspects damage after the blaze that began in a chapel



## Diplomat gets 20 years for smuggling

BY KATE ALDERSON

A HIGH-RANKING Thai diplomat based in London was jailed yesterday for 20 years for smuggling 50 kilograms of heroin into Heathrow airport last August. He is the most senior diplomat convicted for drug trafficking.

Piseth Pamarapa, 45, is first secretary at the Thai embassy in London and a representative of the Thai National Intelligence Agency, the secret service set up with CIA backing 30 years ago. One of his jobs was to link with the British security services.

Pamarapa, part of a drug smuggling ring, had hoped to bring into Britain heroin worth £4.5 million packed into two cases under the cover of

diplomatic immunity, but was arrested at the airport after he had walked through the green channel wearing his diplomat's badge. Immediately after his arrest the Thai authorities waived immunity and he was found guilty in June of drug smuggling.

Customs officers, who have suspected for some time that privilege is still being abused to bring drugs into Britain, were yesterday delighted at the sentence which they see as a great deterrent against diplomatic corruption.

Sentenced at Kingston Crown Court, Judge Dewi Thomas told Pamarapa: "You decided although you had a job, a good position and salary

to misuse privileges of being an honourable diplomat. These privileges carry an obvious and clear obligation."

Lord Richard QC, counsel for Pamarapa, described him as a "pious individual who had shown no sign of veering into crime. This is a very sad case as far as Mr Pamarapa is concerned. To quote a biblical phrase, 'he was tempted and he fell, and his fall has been the greatest.'"

Pamarapa was recruited by a Pakistani family of drug barons headed by the late Omer Khan Yousuf Zia, whose son, Dameed Umer Khan, 33, a businessman from east London, was one of two co-defendants found

guilty with Pamarapa. Khan was jailed for 20 years, and Surat Sakkaravej, a Thai businessman from north London, was jailed for 17 years. Judge Thomas told Khan: "You were the right-hand man, immediately below your father, for setting-up and carrying out this importation."

Before passing sentence, Judge Thomas said that drug smuggling was "one of the worst offences that could be committed in our society". He recommended that all three defendants be deported after serving their sentences and ordered the seizure of £77,000 worth of the defendants' money under the Drugs Trafficking Offences Act 1986.

## Reagan vows bright young things at the Oxford Union

BY BILL FROST

CLEARLY determined to emphasise intellectual parity with his Oxford Union audience and a continuous interest in international affairs, Ronald Reagan yesterday delivered a speech laden with cultured allusions and prescriptions for world peace.

Acknowledging the cheers of the crowd with a slightly bemused but eternally grateful smile, Mr Reagan little realised how close he had come to minor disaster. Minutes before his triumphal arrival at the podium a chair was swapped. "Get another quick! There's point on this one which could leave a nasty stain on the seat of his trousers," said a horrified member of the union to an anxious minion.

Mr Reagan seemed genuinely surprised by the warmth of his welcome from the bright, young audience. "I am delighted to be with you. In fact, at my age, I'm delighted to be anywhere," he said to prolonged, if slightly facetious, applause.

The self-deprecating bon mot was the former president's only digression from a five-page text peppered with clarion calls to action against "tin horn" dictators, despots and brigands from Bosnia to the Horn of Africa. With the

**The former American president, undimmed by time, collected an oar and seemed to want another for the set**

aid of twin inconspicuous teleprompter screens, he quoted T S Eliot, Churchill, Arnold Toynbee and Disraeli.

He also dredged up a passage from Heine to vindicate his tarnished reputation on foreign affairs. Beaming as his confidence grew, he recalled that the German poet once said of an ambassador: "Ordinarily, he is insane, but he has lucid moments when he is only stupid. Some experts regarded me that way. Whenever I hear such comments I know I must be on to something."

As the laughter, not altogether kind, died down, Mr Reagan redeployed his serious world statesman look. "Let us be frank. Evil still stalks the planet."

He proposed air strikes against Greater Serbia and accused Nato of refusing to "cross the street" to stop wholesale slaughter. Allowing Belgrade a free hand to continue ethnic cleansing in Bosnia was silently to acquiesce to mass murder. He also urged international action in Somalia and Sudan — "a humanitarian velvet glove

backed up by a steel fist of military force."

The less concerned in the audience had begun to assume a slightly glazed expression towards the fifth page of Mr Reagan's address. Others, though, clung to every word.

As Mr Reagan sat down an oar was brought to the platform — a memento of his visit. Examining the blade, he appeared to ask his hosts whether he shouldn't have two to make up the set.

Once the Reagan cavalcade had left for lunch at Keble College with Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, students began dissecting the performance. Tim Short, an engineering student, said: "The reception was almost as good as we gave Eddie the Eagle and the game show host Jim Bowen."

Thomas Furlong, a student at New College, said: "I come from Little Rock, Arkansas — Bill Clinton's home town. But Reagan is still the man. His spirit is undimmed; he's a fighter and that was one good speech from one fine world statesman."

Photograph, page 1

## Sex attack sentence cut for bogus priest

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOGUS priest jailed for life for the sex attack of a mother of four in her home had his sentence reduced to six years by three appeal judges in Scotland yesterday.

They ruled that a life sentence was "excessive" for the attack by John Cronin, 21, who posed as a priest to gain entry to the home of the woman, who was active in Tory politics, saying he wished to make a donation to party funds.

As they talked, Cronin suddenly attacked the woman and subjected her to a severe sexual assault. He forced her to perform a number of indecent acts. He also tried to choke her and beat her with his fists and a poker.

Cronin, from Tranent, Lothian, also admitted a number of offences in Edinburgh between May 2 and May 21 this year while pretending to be Father Sean Mulligan, a parish priest from Limerick.

He posed as a priest to celebrate Mass at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh and later sparked a police alert by claiming he saw escaped IRA terrorist Nessel Quinn walking along the street.

He committed the sex attack while on bail after being arrested in connection with the alert. Lord McCluskey jailed Cronin for life at the High Court in Edinburgh in August. At the time the judge said: "In my judgment you are highly dangerous to the public." Psychiatric reports stated his behaviour was "outrageous, inexplicable and uncontrollable".

But Lord Cowie, who heard the appeal with Lord Murray and Lord Wylie, said the contents of the psychiatric report did not support the imposition of a life sentence.

The judges said the only occasion on which Cronin showed any sign of placing a member of the public at risk was during the assault on the woman, and that was not enough to justify a life sentence.

Cronin, who was described as "an evil Walter Mitty" character when he first appeared in court, smiled and waved to the public benches as he left the dock.

SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY.

## GLENMORANGIE

GEORGE MACKENZIE. Mashman.

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE, and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimples. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. "Who was that?" asked a visitor. "Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash."

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: "Time and the mash wait for no man."



HANDCRAFTED BY THE SIXTEEN MEN OF TAIN.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The day the pound died

The end, when it came, was mercifully brief. Just before 12.30 on Wednesday, September 16, John Major, Norman Lamont and the inner cabinet gathered at Admiralty House. The dining room was adorned with



paintings of great naval figures and conflicts of a different era — one showed the Greek god Hercules rejecting, in the shape of two female figures, Pleasure for Virtue. The choice facing the gathering was less appetising, but just as stark...

A special insight investigation into the day the pound dropped out of the ERM — News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow





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# An arbitration panel will avoid lengthy process of taking disputes to court

## British sport seeks to put its house in order

■ The failure of the Aga Khan's action emphasises the importance of fairness by sports bodies

By CHARLES WOODHOUSE

TOP sports administrators will need no reminding after this week that sport is not above the law. But they may sleep more easily after the failure of the Aga Khan's challenge to the Jockey Club's disqualification of his 1989 Oaks winner, Aliya, in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

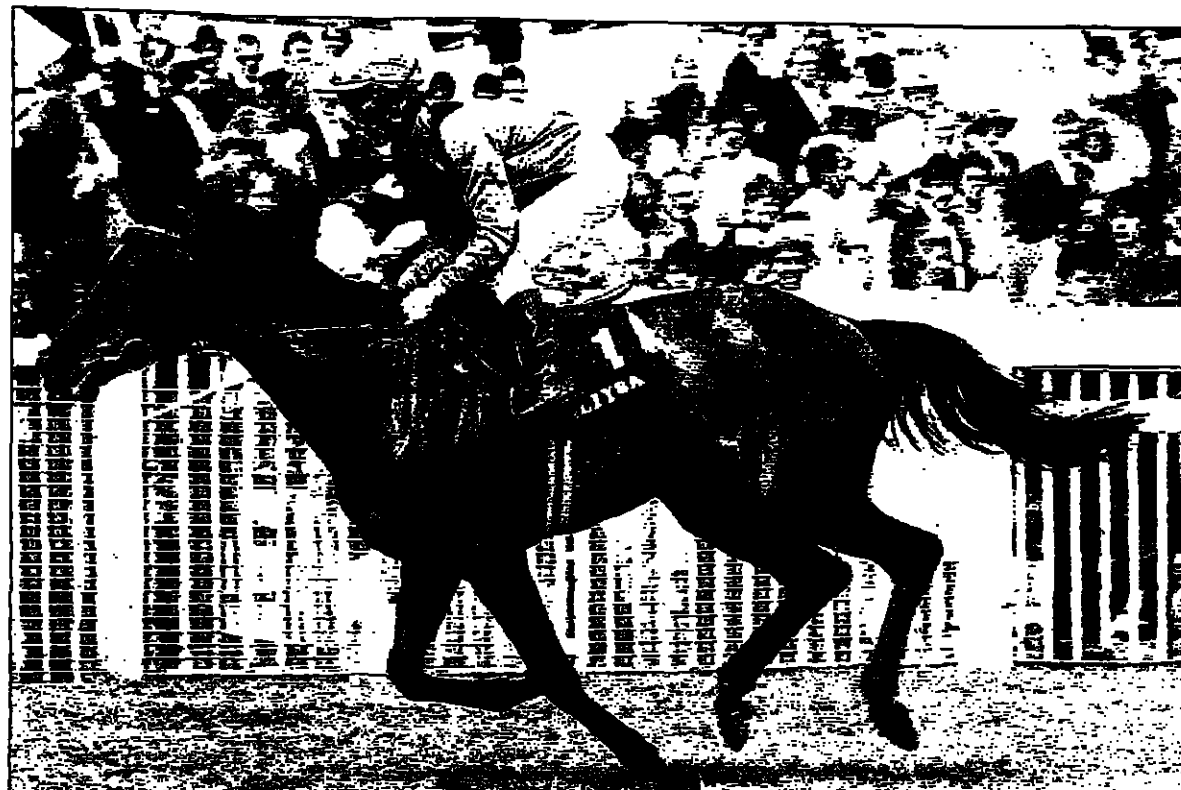
The judgment came within 24 hours of the massive \$17.67 million (£11.78 million) damages awarded by a US court to the 400 metres world record holder Harry "Butch" Reynolds against the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) over a drugs-related ban.

At the same time, Salisbury Crown Court acquitted the Brentford footballer Gary Blissett of causing grievous bodily harm to John Uzell of Torquay United, who had to be operated on for a fractured left cheek bone and eye socket floor last year after a clash for the ball. English courts appear to trust more than their American counterparts in the fairness of sporting organisations' disciplinary procedures.

The Jockey Club case emphasises again the importance of sports bodies acting fairly and reasonably and within the terms of their own constitutions and disciplinary procedures. If they do so (and it is a big if), then as private bodies, albeit with powers that affect millions, the English courts will not subject their decisions to judicial review.

In the Court of Appeal the Master of the Rolls, Sir Thomas Bingham, accepted that while in many ways the Jockey Club's powers may be described as public, they were in no sense governmental.

For the Aga Khan, Sydney Kentridge QC had argued that the Jockey Club's monopolistic position meant it controlled not just a sport but an industry. Accordingly, its decisions should be subject to judicial review in the same way as for those of govern-



Not above the law: yesterday's decision to uphold the disqualification of Aliya at the Oaks, top, came a day after John Uzell, right, lost a case in which he accused another footballer of assault, and Harry Reynolds, centre, was awarded £11.8 million damages. Katrin Krabbe, the German sprinter, may take her drug test dispute to the English courts

ment departments, local authorities and other statutory bodies.

For the Jockey Club, Patrick Milmo QC had argued that its disciplinary committee was no more performing a public duty than an umpire deciding whether a ball was tampered with.

He argued successfully that there were no grounds for distinguishing the Jockey Club's powers in racing from other domestic controlling sports bodies such as the Lawn Tennis Association, the British Board of Boxing Control and

the Football Association. Unless successfully appealed in the House of Lords, yesterday's decision should reassure national and international sports bodies about the reluctance of the English courts to interfere with and second-guess their decisions.

Just over two years ago the IAAF had its drug rules and procedures challenged in the High Court by a Swiss runner, Sandra Gasser. She had argued two points. First, that the IAAF rules were an unreasonable restraint of trade because they imposed some absolute

offence rather than one depending on the guilt of the athlete. This argument was rejected by Mr Justice Scott, with her second argument that there were procedural irregularities relating to her drug testing which amounted to breaches of natural justice. Mr Justice Scott said they were not and there was no unfairness.

However, Katrin Krabbe, the German sprinter, is considering coming to the English courts if the IAAF supports the German athletics authorities' four year-ban on

her after she had tested positive for drugs. Against this background of litigation, British sports bodies have been actively working to put their houses in order. Although not strictly part of the requirement of natural justice, it is now generally recognised that to deal effectively internally, sports bodies must have an appeal procedure as an essential safety valve. Thus, where a doping offence has taken place, disciplinary proceedings following a suspension will lead to a disciplinary committee hearing, with the

right of appeal to an independent tribunal. The word independent needs to be underlined, to ensure that those who hear the case have had no previous connection with it and no bias or prejudice. As a further measure to ensure that sports disputes on matters such as doping testing and eligibility decisions avoid going to court, the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) is setting up a British Sports Arbitration Panel (BSAP). The intention is to resolve sporting disputes in-house, rather than subjecting

them to expensive and time-consuming ordeals in the courts. It was 1989 when the Aga Khan's Aliya won the Oaks.

Those familiar with the growth of alternate dispute resolution in other specialist areas will not be at all surprised that at long last British sport should within the next few months have in place its own arbitration panel. □ Charles Woodhouse is a lawyer specialising in sport matters.

Appeal rejected, page 28

## Ministers rethink rights of immigrants

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL STAFF

MOUNTING pressure from Tory backbenchers has forced the government to reconsider plans to curb the number of immigrants and asylum seekers entering Britain. Conservative MPs protesting at proposals to abolish the appeal rights of visitors refused entry to Britain claimed yesterday that more colleagues have joined the campaign.

Up to 20 Conservative MPs are reported to have voiced opposition to a clause in the asylum and immigration appeals bill, which they claim will deny thousands of genuine applicants the right to visit their families in Britain.

The bill takes away the appeal rights of visitors and students applying to stay in Britain for less than six months. Charles Wardle, the immigration minister, met a delegation of Conservative MPs, many representing seats with large ethnic minority populations, to discuss the likelihood of amending clause nine of the bill. He is expected to announce a decision on Tuesday during the bill's committee stage.

They are worried that the removal of appeal rights might lead to corruption among high commission clearance officers, who could be confident that their decisions on immigration applications would not be re-examined. The minister ruled out substantial relaxation of the bill to allow extensive appeal procedures in Britain, but MPs are optimistic that he may offer a safety net by allowing an appeal process at high commission level.

The government believes the bill's tighter regulations will cut the number of immigration appeals and help to clear the backlog, which reached 27,000 last year.

Mr Wardle has also been forced to offer the possibility of concessions to stave off potential defeat in the Commons standing committee that is examining the bill. The minister faced cross-party opposition on the issue of giving unaccompanied children applying for asylum the right to be represented when being interviewed by immigration officials.

## ITV loses programme rights

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV is to challenge rules imposed yesterday by the Office of Fair Trading that could threaten the quality of its shows by restricting its ownership of programme rights.

Unless the Monopolies and

Mergers Commission overturns the ruling, ITV companies will be prevented from acquiring options to produce further series of any of its big hits, from *London's Burning* to *Coronation Street*. As the

new rules do not apply to the BBC, Channel 4 or BSkyB, any rival broadcaster will be able to bid against the channel for the rights to broadcast second and third runs of ITV-funded and produced programmes.

"This will put ITV at a massive disadvantage against all other UK channels," Greg Dyke, chairman of the ITV Association and chief executive of LWT, said. "We would be surprised if this could be described as fair trading in any circumstances. This is a charter for channels relying on secondary products and picking off the best of ITV."

ITV will also be barred from buying programme rights lasting longer than five years with an option for a further two. BBC, Channel 4 or BSkyB retain rights for unlimited periods.

Andrew Quinn, ITV's chief executive, said that the ruling would mean "one or two years of total instability". It would encourage the channel to spend up to 30 per cent less on original productions.

Mr Dyke said that the ruling would deter ITV companies from investing in expensive productions, whether made in-house or by independent producers. "ITV will never pay 100 per cent for any programme again, so it's hard to see where the funding will come from for expensive productions such as *London's*

*Burning*." He said that it could ultimately threaten the British production industry.

The OFT, charged by the 1990 Broadcasting Act with ensuring that ITV's network commissioning arrangements are fair and competitive, ruled that the ten-year duration and exclusivity of rights sought by ITV was anti-competitive and would put independent producers at a disadvantage. Sir Bryan Carsberg, the office's director-general, said that denying rival broadcasters access to secondary broadcasting rights "is intended and likely to restrict competition".

ITV plans to appeal to the monopolies commission next week against Sir Bryan's decision. The Independent Television Commission will also consider an appeal. A commission enquiry would last about six months, during which time ITV could continue commissioning under existing rules. It could then lock up long-term rights to any programmes commissioned before a final ruling.

The ITV system outlined in this document is not the system individual companies bid for when applying for their licences and if it comes into effect companies might well wish to call into question their licence terms," Mr Dyke said. ITV companies face an annual bill from the Treasury of almost £500 million after last year's blind-bid auction.

## Channel 5 takes off

By OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHANNEL 5 seems likely to begin broadcasting in London next autumn after Thames Television, the sole bidder, last night met its deadline to assure the Independent Television Commission that its funding was in place.

Negotiations with potential shareholders were concluded yesterday just hours before the 5pm deadline, but Thames declined to reveal its partners, saying only that "the necessary information" had been delivered to the regulator.

Few industry sources had expected Thames to find the financial backing to launch the channel: or, after months

of failed negotiations, that Channel 5 would be awarded to anyone. The ITC will make its decision on December 17.

Thames and Moses Znamier, the founder of Toronto's irreverent CityTV, plan to build a group of localised CityTV stations, beginning in London next autumn, then Manchester in 1994 and other cities to follow. It would broadcast 24-hour news, films and music.

Pearson, publisher of *The Financial Times* and a shareholder of BSkyB, is understood to be one of Thames' partners. There are believed to be two other investors.



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# Farmers reap bumper harvest from Britain's ERM exit

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S farmers can look forward to substantially higher incomes next year in spite of the recession and cuts in production subsidies imposed under the reform of the European Community's common agricultural policy (CAP).

Their relative good fortune, as well as the lack of a Gallic tradition of peasant revolt, helps to explain why the yommen of England are not driving their tractors into the streets or dumping manure on the doorstep of John Gummer, the agriculture minister.

The immediate reason why farmers are cushioned against the nation's economic woes is the sharp devaluation of the pound since its suspension from the European exchange rate mechanism in September. That factor, and other changes to the EC's arcane "green currency" system, are likely by next month to give farmers an 18 per cent increase in the subsidies that form a large part of their income, even after allowing for the mini-surge in sterling's value in the past week.

Feed wheat should be fetching £140 a tonne, compared with the £120 farmers were expecting last June when the CAP reform was agreed; pay-

ments for leaving land fallow under the set-aside scheme will be about £100 an acre instead of £86; and compensation for cuts in support prices will be £57-£58 an acre, up from £48.

Jim Ward, head of agricultural research at Savills, the estate agents, said: "The immediate future is looking pretty rosy. Some high-yielding farmers may still suffer loss of

income under the CAP reform, but anyone growing 2.9 tonnes an acre or less, which covers most farmers, should clearly be better off."

EC farm subsidies are fixed in European currency units and then converted into national currencies at special "green" rates that lag behind real currency movements. From next month, with the advent of the single European

market, the "green" pound will be brought fully into line with the real pound and adjusted as necessary every month.

That means that any continuing fall in the value of sterling will translate almost immediately into higher subsidies for British farmers. Conversely, if the pound goes up, the sterling value of subsidies will come down, but the pound would have to make a dramatic recovery to wipe out all the depreciation of the past three months.

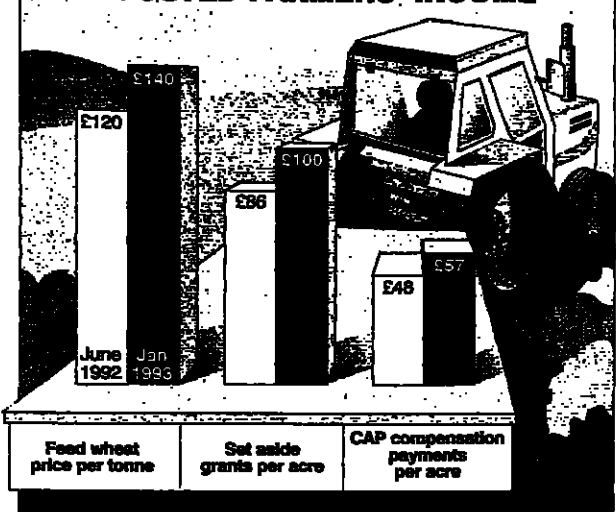
Even without the devaluation bonus, with prudent cost-cutting the average arable farmer should notice no loss of income under the CAP reform, says a survey of 390 farms in eastern England by the department of land economy at Cambridge University.

The study estimates that an average-sized farm of 467 acres will be making almost the same profit in real terms in 1995-6, after two years of CAP reform, as in 1990-1.

□ *Report on Farming in the Eastern Counties of England 1990-1* (Department of Land Economy, 16-21 Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EL; £12.50)

Royal support, page 1

## HOW STERLING DEVALUATION HAS BOOSTED FARMERS' INCOME



Birthday stroll: Father Francis McLachlan, who celebrated his hundredth birthday yesterday, taking his daily walk in the grounds of Belmont Abbey, Hertfordshire. Fr McLachlan, who is believed to be the world's oldest Benedictine monk, marked the occasion by helping at his

own celebratory Mass, watched by members of his family from Paris. Fr McLachlan, who was born at Hackney, east London, entered the order at Belmont in 1920. He retired in 1976, after teaching and working in Lancashire, Cumbria, Hereford and Worcester, Merseyside and Cornwall.

Credo

## Royals reflect our own image

The Rev Jonathan Sedgwick

This year has been a bad one for the royal family. Yet I believe we are mistaken in assuming that its events tell us primarily about the state of the monarchy. I suspect they say rather more about us. One of the earliest examples of the shifting sands of public opinion comes in the Christian Holy Week stories.

Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem but the celebrations were short-lived, and largely the same crowd would bay for His blood days later. It was as a projection of their aspirations that they cheered, and it was their disappointment that He was not what they would have Him be that turned them against Him.

At work in the relationship between us and our public figures is the projection of our needs and fears on to them, and it is most true of the monarch. What normally breaks down this one-way projection is real contact, and most of us are denied this.

Like the hosannas that greeted Christ's entry into Jerusalem, the fairytale monarchy that seemed so secure in the early eighties was at least in part our construction. It was our desire to have ideal, beautiful, rich and romantic figures that created an image for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Just as it was the destructive desires of the crowd that crucified Jesus, so it is our desire to pry into the privacy of others, our appetite for scandal and our willingness to cast off images we have tarnished that threatens the monarchy.

The royal family has something to tell us that is probably more important than the endless speculation



into their well-being. They reflect something back to us about our health as a nation. They show us to be increasingly preoccupied by the misfortunes of others and unable to apply any standards of compassion and rationality to a series of personal setbacks.

Because we live in a world in which public tastes are increasingly volatile and influential, we have a correspondingly greater responsibility to take care of our institutions. Destruction has a corrupting life of its own. Before we can see what has happened, we may have damaged something precious and creative.

Christ gives hope, for the end of the Holy Week story is that, however great our destructive effort, the creativity of God and the power of love cannot be quenched by it. It asserts that, at every point, there is chance to turn back and co-operate with the creativity of love.

Perhaps someone does need to expose the weaknesses of the monarchy, and ask questions about the inequalities it represents and the snobbery it may encourage. However, it is clear that if the monarchy were to be destroyed it would not be by republican idealists; it would be by the rich, the disenchanted, the cynical and the opportunistic. Above all, it would be destroyed by our weaknesses and destructive urges.

□ The author is fellow and dean of divinity at Magdalen College, Oxford

Weekend section: High spirits, page 1 At your service, page 9

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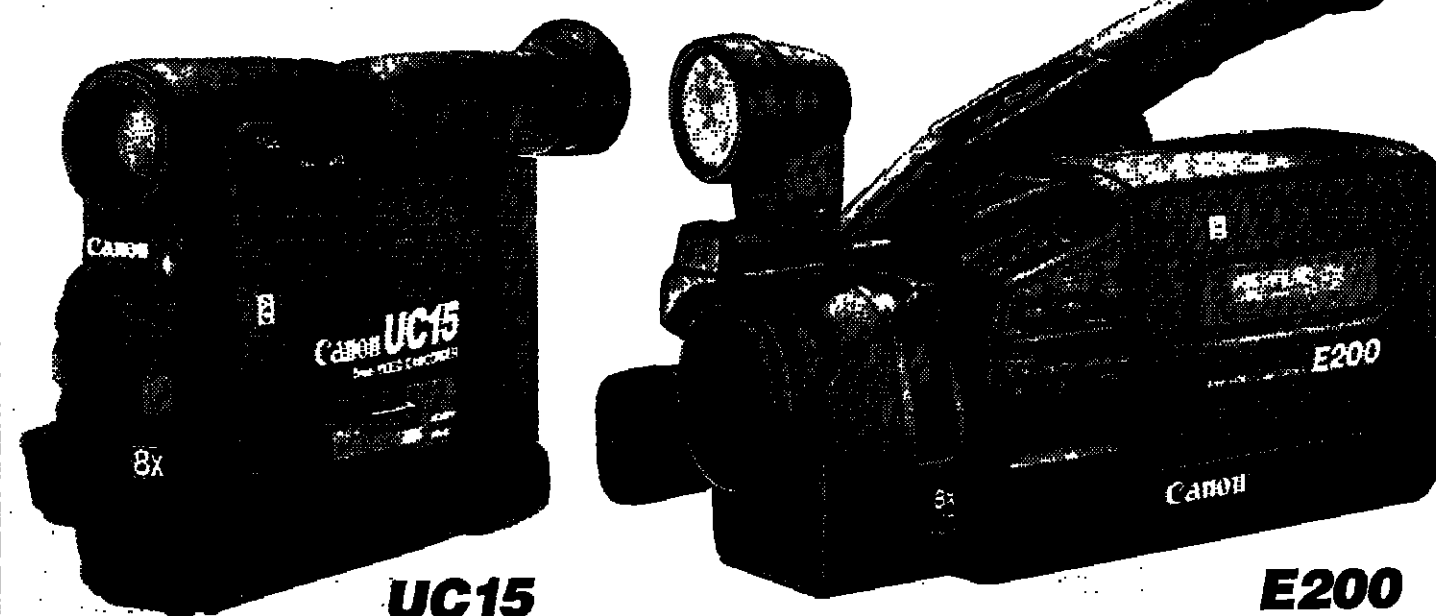
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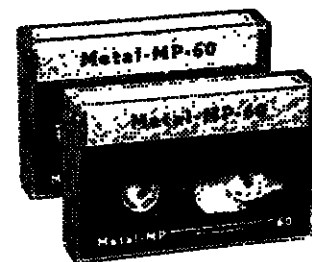
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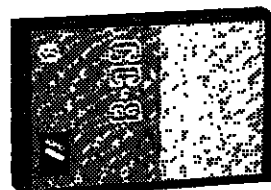
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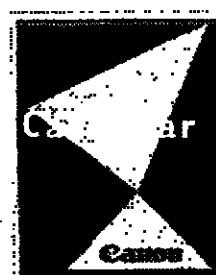
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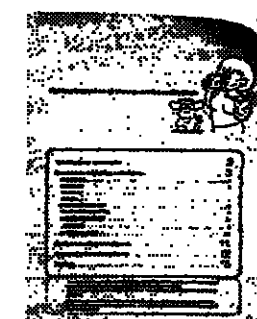
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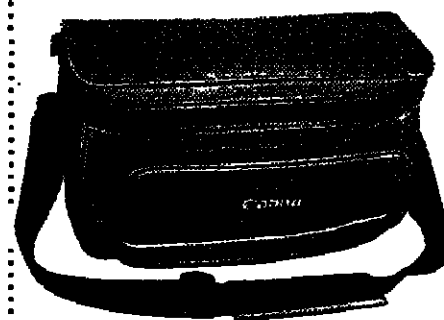
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General pledges to 'meet fire with fire'

## Nineteen whites hurt in Cape cafe blast

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

NINETEEN whites were hurt when a bomb exploded at the Spur restaurant in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape, a crowded fast-food cafe just before midnight. Eight people were kept in hospital, of whom five were seriously injured.

Following hard on the attack, General Johan van der Merwe, the country's police chief, said that his men "will meet fire with fire", and he warned the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla), which is being blamed for the bombings, that "any member of Apla who commits acts of aggression against the people of South Africa will be severely dealt with".

At the same time, three days of talks between the African National Congress and the South African government ended with a bland statement in bureaucratic language that both sides recognised the need for a speedy movement to a democratic form of government and that efforts must be made to resume the Con-

tion for a Democratic South Africa (Codessa) in a more representative form.

General van der Merwe was given explicit backing for his stand against Apla by President de Klerk who, chatting to reporters after a meeting with Edouard Balladur, a former French finance minister, said: "We will not stand terrorism."

He said that the government would act strongly to curb the violence, adding that the Apla action would have a profound effect on discussions with the Pan Africanist Congress. Apla is the armed wing of the PAC. Andries Treurnicht, the right-wing Conservative Party leader, called for the banning of the PAC in the aftermath of the first bomb attack, in King William's Town at the weekend, in which two white couples died and 17 people were injured. The hardline Herstigte national party has gone further and called for the immediate arrest of the PAC's leadership. The PAC's youth wing replied that any attempt

to carry out such action would lead to the deaths of more white people.

In fact, the chances of any serious white backlash are not large. The Nazi-style Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB or Afrikaner Resistance Movement), led by the faintly ludicrous Eugene Terre Blanche, is at present supposedly carrying out protection patrols on the border with Transkei. The only result so far has been an accusation that a black man was beaten to death when he fell foul of an AWB commando.

Both the Queenstown bomb attack and the assault on the golf club party in King William's Town took place in the neck of land that separates the so-called independent Xhosa homelands, Transkei and Ciskei.

The PAC armed wing has not hitherto been highly regarded as a fighting force. However, some of its soldiers are now said to have been given training in Libya.



Welcome home: Blandino Mones, left, greets a friend after he and five UN colleagues were freed by guerrillas

## Hostages tried to flee Khmer Rouge

FROM AFP IN PHNOM PENH

SIX United Nations peacekeepers held hostage by Khmer Rouge guerrillas since Tuesday said that they tried to escape twice, but they were halted by gunfire. They were released yesterday.

The men dishevelled and covered with mosquito and flea bites, returned to Phnom Penh from Kompong Thom province in central Cambodia visibly tired but in good health after their ordeal.

UN officials said that the three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander were freed after Khmer Rouge leaders authorised their release. However, Mak Ben, a Khmer Rouge official, said the detention was justified because the troops were spying for the Phnom Penh government. He indicated that any other peacekeepers caught trespassing in Khmer Rouge territory would also be detained.

## Isolated Indians welcome tourists

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ITANAGAR, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Most of the 26 tribes in the mountainous northeastern tip of India have never seen an outsider. The British sealed off the region in 1873, saving it from cultural destruction by Christian missionaries. The Indian government continued the isolation policy after independence in 1947, preserving it as one of the most unexplored and unknown corners of the world.

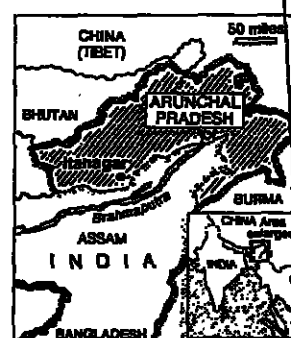
Last week the bastion fell. The Delhi government announced that tourists would be allowed to make controlled expeditions to two small districts, providing funds to modernise the last undeveloped part of India. The local administration, dominated by the comparatively well-educated Adi group of tribes, welcomed the move.

The region was known as the North-East Frontier Agency until it was renamed Arunachal Pradesh in 1972. Since the Indo-Chinese war 30 years ago the ban on outsiders, including Indians, has been all but absolute. There is not even an airport. Little is known about the region's ancient history because scholars and archaeologists have not been allowed free rein to explore.

The Indian government is divided about opening up Arunachal. The environment department is nervous that virgin forests will be damaged and that tribes will be turned into self-conscious tourist gimmicks. The tourism department argues that a limited but profitable tourist industry will create a vested interest in preserving the environment.

Madhav Rao Scindia, the minister for tourism, flew in by helicopter to announce the selective opening of Arunachal. Adi leaders let out cheer as he did so. There are plans to set up helipads so that tourists can be ferried from airports in neighbouring Assam. Adi leaders say they will follow the example of the kingdom of Bhutan and make tourism expensive and selective to minimise cultural and environmental damage.

Arunachal's 52,000 square miles are home to barely 800,000 people, predominantly of Indo-Mongoloid stock. Most are animists but there are some Buddhists. The tribes and sub-tribes



speaking at least 60 distinctive dialects, preventing inter-tribal communication. They are also kept apart by mountains, forests and rivers. Only in the foothills bordering Assam can tribes communicate with one another in a lingua franca of Assamese-cum-Hindi.

Some tribes have been changed almost overnight by the arrival of television. Aerials poke from the top of bamboo huts in villages adjoining a few twisting mountain tracks that provide tenuous communications with the outside world. Young men influenced by television wear T-shirts and jeans while their fathers still dress in local cloth and animal skins. Bamboo huts serve as cinema: in villages with electricity, filling the mountains with the sound of Hindi songs. But most tribes live far from such encroachments.

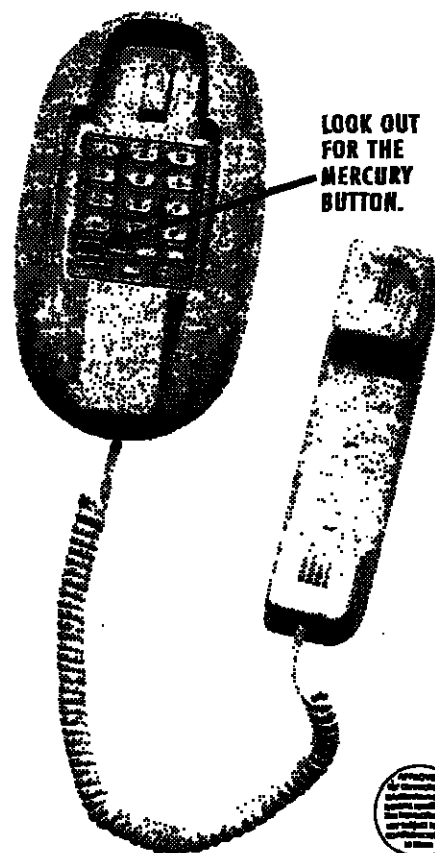
The outside world of corruption and political grum-mandering touches Itanagar, the hilly capital, with its population of 25,000. The Congress (I) party has engineered itself into a position of absolute rule in the 60-seat local assembly, and there are suspicions that local politicians are engaged in illegal logging.

There is no industry, no taxation and therefore no income. It is the only part of India without landowners, moneylenders or liquor-sellers, and there is no caste. Neither is there begging, nor hunger. When people from Arunachal visit other areas of India they are often mistaken as foreigners. "They think we are Chinese and ask to see our visas," says Nani Kojin, a journalist in Itanagar. He thinks the arrival of tourists will be generally welcomed. "We cannot remain museum pieces for ever."

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## Bush sends troops into Somalia to protect food airlift

■ US Marines will soon land in Mogadishu. The Pentagon does not share the White House's belief that the tour of duty will be short

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICAN marines on board helicopters are expected to sweep into Mogadishu within days and secure the airport. They will protect a United Nations military airlift of food to starving Somalia. Pentagon officials announced last night.

President Bush briefed congressional leaders yesterday and last night addressed the nation to explain why he was sending thousands of American troops abroad in one of the largest armed humanitarian relief missions ever undertaken.

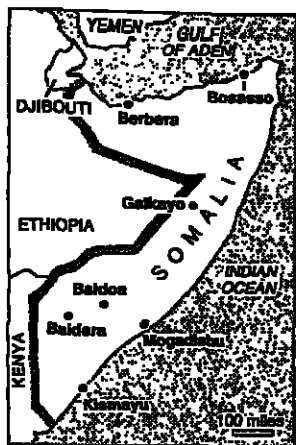
Defence officials said 28,000 American marines and soldiers could be deployed to relieve the drought-affected and war-torn East African country after the UN Security Council unanimously voted on Thursday to authorise military intervention.

An amphibious task force of 1,800 marines is anchored off the capital, Mogadishu, and could enter the city early next week or even this weekend. The aircraft carrier *Ranger* and two warships were also apparently being diverted from the Gulf to Somalia to lend support.

In Bonn, President Mitterrand said that France would send between 1,500 and 2,000 troops to Somalia to help in protecting aid. "The goal is to stay until we reach a breakthrough in this tragic situation," he said. Italy, Belgium, Canada, Egypt, Morocco, and possibly Nigeria are also expected to contribute small troop contingents to give the American-led operation an international appearance and counter Third World fears of American colonialism. Japan said it would contribute money.

In London, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, overseas development minister, announced that Britain is to give an extra £4.5 million to help the relief effort in Somalia. The government also announced the deployment of RAF military transport aircraft to Somalia.

In Mogadishu, a senior French official said that armed gangs and militias had begun to leave the Somali capital, faced with the certainty of military intervention. Bernard Kouchner, minister for humanitarian action, said that the "atmosphere has



changed" since the UN vote. Pakistani peacekeeping soldiers shot dead a Somali gunman and wounded two others in a battle at Mogadishu airport yesterday. Witnesses said fighting erupted when a "technical", the heavily armed battle wagons used by the Somali militia, swung into the airport and opened fire on Pakistani UN soldiers.

The Pentagon said American troops would not go in with "guns blazing", insisting their purpose was simply to create a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations. However, the forces would retaliate if attacked. Bill Clinton, the president-elect, hailed the UN vote as an "historic and welcome step" that provided new hope to millions of Somalis. He praised Mr Bush for "taking the lead in this important humanitarian effort".

Congressional Democrats have expressed more cautious support for the operation, but before the president's briefing they were alarmed at the lack of a clearly defined mission or timetable for withdrawal, and at the potential cost. Pentagon officials do not share the White House belief that the troops could complete their task and pull out before Mr Clinton's inauguration on January 20. They believe it could take months.

According to Carl Mundy, the Marine Corps commandant, the 1,800 marines will first make an amphibious and helicopter landing in Mogadishu and pave the way for the arrival of their colleagues. The initial task will be primarily a huge engineering project. Mogadishu airport is one of two in Somalia capable of

receiving American transport planes, but the runway is in disrepair and there is no space for parking a large number of military aircraft. The port may be too shallow for military cargo vessels.

While the troops will be flown in, most of the supplies for the operation will be delivered by four pre-positioned Marine ships based at Diego Garcia, the British island territory in the southern Indian Ocean. They carry water purification plants, fuel, bulldozers, armoured vehicles and other heavy equipment. Only when Mogadishu had been secured and staging areas established would the troops begin securing roads into the country for the distribution of relief supplies.



Agony of Africa: a teenage Somali boy, turned away from relief centres for days because they have only limited supplies, awaiting the arrival of American troops in Mogadishu to protect international aid convoys

## Lee resigns as party leader

Singapore: Lee Kuan Yew, the former prime minister, 69, resigned as leader of the People's Action party that he helped to launch 38 years ago. He suggested that Goh Chok Tong, the present prime minister, should take over. (AP)

## Treaty signed

Bangkok: Burma has signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Radio Rangoon said. The radio said a representative of Rangoon's military junta had signed the treaty in Washington. (AFP)

## Rice appeal

Hanoi: Vietnam is collecting donations so that it can ship rice to Cuba. Civil servants have been asked to donate a day's salary towards the 10,000-tonne cargo. (Reuters)

## Bush estate

Stuart, Florida: President's Bush mother, Dorothy, left much of her multi-million-dollar estate to her five children and 16 grandchildren. She also left \$2,000 to her former cook. (AP)

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## Patten reforms win Nixon's backing

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

RICHARD Nixon, the former American president, has expressed strong backing for Chris Patten's proposals to expand democracy in Hong Kong, and American support for the governor's stand appears to be growing.

Neither President Bush nor Bill Clinton, the president-elect, have commented publicly on Mr Patten's proposals, but the State Department has issued a supportive statement. Media comment, particularly in *The Wall Street Journal*, has been favourable. Mr Patten plans to visit America soon after Mr Clinton's inauguration and hopes the new president will agree to see him.

Such a meeting would send a strong signal to China because America retains considerable influence over the Chinese leadership. Mr Clinton's campaign threats to remove China's preferential trading status unless its conduct improved has alarmed Peking's ageing leadership.

Lord Howe of Aberavon, who negotiated the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong while foreign secretary, said yesterday that he believed the Chinese would eventually change their minds about Mr Patten's proposals for widening democracy. Lord Howe, visiting Peking at the head of a human rights delegation, described China's recent attacks on the governor's proposals as over-simplified denunciations. "I do not believe that will be the long-run position," he said. "I think that China will recognise that Mr Patten as governor is doing a very important job conscientiously and is seeking to find the best way forward compatible with the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law. These situations do not endure indefinitely without the



Nixon: said Chinese will huff and puff

prospect of some forward movement."

Mr Nixon, who reopened US-Chinese relations in 1972, said he would take "a hard line" in support of Mr Patten. The governor was "reflecting the opinions of the people of Hong Kong which, incidentally, are also the views of the American people".

Speaking in London, Mr Nixon said the Chinese would "huff and puff" at Mr Patten's plans, but ultimately would be restrained by two considerations: Hong Kong was their gateway to the West and they needed to prove to Taiwan that they meant to keep their promise of "one country, two systems".

Mr Nixon added: "If they reject democracy in Hong Kong, they will close out any chance of making that impression on the Taiwanese." The State Department has called Mr Patten's proposals a "constructive approach to the goal of the democratisation of Hong Kong". A *Wall Street Journal* editorial on Wednesday lavished praise on Mr Patten, saying he had "flushed China into the open".

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# Macedonia issue threatens to dominate EC summit

RECOGNITION of Macedonia is one of the most divisive issues on the agenda of the Edinburgh summit, one that is likely to generate long argument and lead to diplomatic deadlock.

Despite a friendly Downing Street meeting on Thursday evening between John Major and President Gligorov of Macedonia, Britain sees little hope of compromise in the bitter feud between Greece and its northern neighbour.

Robin O'Neill, the diplomat asked by the British presidency to mediate between Athens and Skopje, has made little headway. Neither side is ready to compromise over the use of the word Macedonia in the former Yugoslav republic's name.

In June the European Community summit in Lisbon decided to withhold recognition but there is mounting pressure for that to be reversed. Led by the Dutch, several EC members, includ-

*EC members could sour relations with Greece if they give in to pressure to recognise Macedonia, Michael Binyon writes*



ing Britain and Germany, argue that non-recognition is illogical and dangerous. They say that Macedonia has fulfilled all the conditions set by the EC for recognition of other former Yugoslav republics. Leaving Skopje in limbo has deprived it of vital EC aid, is increasing fissiparous nationalist pressures on Mr Gligorov and could lead to ethnic tensions that might erupt in a conflict that would draw in all Macedonia's neighbours.

Greece, however, insists that the issue is of vital national importance and is appealing for EC solidarity. Greek public opinion is inflamed at what it sees as an

attempt to steal Greek history and culture and at implicit territorial claims on northern Greece. Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, has said his centre-right government would collapse if there were any change in EC policy.

The point was forcefully made to Mr Major during his recent Athens visit, and will again be underlined by Michael Papatsonantinos, the foreign minister, to his EC colleagues in Brussels on Monday. Greece is threatening unilateral measures if Macedonia is recognised, including closing its northern border, a total trade boycott and non-cooperation with the EC in other fields.

Britain sees great dangers whatever the outcome at Edinburgh. If recognition is withheld, it fears Mr Gligorov's authority over his shaky coalition, which includes members of the Albanian minority, will drain away. Tension between ethnic groups is likely to increase, as well as growing strain with Albania and a possible revival of Bulgarian territorial claims on an area that has been twice fought over in Balkan wars.

Special EC help to counteract the devastating impact of sanctions on Serbia is already dependent on Greek goodwill; continuing denial of EC aid could drive Skopje into the arms of Serbia.

If the EC ignores Greek pleas and overturns the Lisbon declaration, Macedonia will effectively be cut off. It depends on the port of Thessaloniki and the rail link north for almost all imports and exports. The links through Serbia are blocked; the road to Albania is impass-



able; the only exit route is the poor road east to Bulgaria. Despite Greek claims that they have sent 40,000 tonnes of oil north this year, Macedonians say they are already suffering a devastating economic blockade by Greece.

Mr Gligorov and Denko Maleski, his foreign minister, found a sympathetic welcome in Britain. Greece, however, has sent Virginia Tsouderou, a senior diplomat, to warn the British presidency that Greece would be the first country to suffer if the Balkan war spreads south; that, as in Bosnia, premature recognition would not guarantee

Macedonia's security and that Greece expects the same EC solidarity as Denmark does over Maastricht. She points out that Greece has obtained a guarantee from all the republic's neighbours that its borders are inviolable.

Greece accuses Mr Gligorov of mounting a propaganda campaign at the expense of economic development, of continuing the policies of Stalin and Tito in creating an artificial nationality, of refusing the proposed compromise of a double name, and of using the name and star emblem of Philip II as a cover for territorial expansionism.

Such intemperate language makes compromise unlikely. Britain has suggested that Macedonia change its name unilaterally to "Northern Macedonia" or "The Slavic Republic of Macedonia" as a gesture of goodwill, which, though not satisfying Athens, might assuage Greek fears. Mr Gligorov rules this out: it would be seen in Skopje as an

unacceptable concession to outside pressure. Macedonia accuses Greece of trying to strangle the new republic, of hastening a Balkan war and of conniving with Serbia.

The likely outcome at Edinburgh is deadlock, with the argument eating into time the EC wants to spend on policy over Bosnia. President Mitterrand is personally committed to support for Greece; other countries may insist on breaking free of the Lisbon declaration.

The wrangling on this issue could do lasting damage to Greek relations with the EC, and would certainly make a common foreign policy more difficult to achieve in other areas. Macedonia would then take its case to the United Nations, as America and several other countries are waiting for an EC lead before taking a decision on recognition.

Reagan speech, page 3  
Leading article, page 13

## Yeltsin supporters call for referendum to beat Congress

President Yeltsin is being driven by hardliners to dissolve the full parliament. His moderate critics are eyeing cabinet posts

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin battled yesterday to save his reforms after the conservative Congress of People's Deputies condemned the record of his government and demanded fundamental policy changes.

The resolution, passed by an overwhelming majority, indicates a hardening of hostility towards the government and makes it more likely that Mr Yeltsin will have to take emergency steps to ensure that his reforms continue.

The swing against the president enraged Vyacheslav Kostikov, his spokesman, who

said the Congress's antipathy might mean Mr Yeltsin would be forced to hold a referendum to dissolve it. That would need support from a third of the deputies or a petition with a million signatures but is considered risky because it would polarise the country at a time when the government is asking moderate political forces to unite in the face of economic hardship and the threat of nationalist extremism. Asked if Mr Yeltsin would be prepared to bypass the constitution and simply dissolve the country's ruling body, Mr

Kostikov said: "I do not exclude such a possibility."

Mr Yeltsin urged deputies to reject the proposals that would strip him of his powers to appoint a government and in effect allow the hardline-dominated parliament to run the country. He said their adoption would damage Russia's statehood and turn the government into "a spineless appendage". He added: "You would get weak government, regardless of who heads it. The whole executive power would be damaged and reform would be in question." The special powers by which he has ruled Russia since March ran out on Tuesday and must be granted anew by the Congress.

Opponents of Mr Yeltsin have won some procedural votes with almost the two-thirds majority they would need to pass the amendments that would tame the radical government. Deputies, however, are fickle and Mr Yeltsin's strategy appears to be to frighten deputies into backing down by threatening chaos in the country unless they approve his powers. The Congress will reconvene today to vote on the amendments.

The government believes that the Supreme Soviet is hampering its ability to carry out policy. Under the sway of Russian Khasbulatov, its conservative chairman, the parliament has blocked many reform moves in recent months and Mr Khasbulatov declared this week that he disagreed with the government not only over the pace of reforms but also over their basic aim.

The Yeltsin camp is disappointed that informal agreements with centre-right elements of Civic Union to stabilise the government have not materialised, with several votes showing hardliners rather than centre-conservatives to be in control. "Today's events have shown that the Congress was deeply conservative from the start," Mr Kostikov said. "The more sacrifices the government presents, the more aggressive it becomes." He said that other ministers intended to resign if the assembly did not accept the continuation in office of Yegor Gaidar, the radical acting prime minister.

Andrei Nekhaev, the economics minister, called the move to subject the government to the Congress's whim "a constitutional coup" and said the entire cabinet would resign if the legislature did not back Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gaidar. Despite the colourful debates that dominate proceedings, much of the real bargaining is done behind the scenes in traditional Kremlin style and many of Mr Yeltsin's supporters believe that a deal with Civic Union on cabinet portfolios may well be the outcome of the deadlock.

"The price for keeping Mr Gaidar in office may well be four or five posts for the union," said Igor Golobovskiy, editor-in-chief of the liberal *Izvestia* newspaper. "The big squeeze is now on and the options are limited," he added.



YEGOR Gaidar, 36, a brilliant, workaholic academic and journalist. Russia's acting prime minister and architect of economic reform. The doggedness of his commitment to market economics has won him widespread respect in the West and some grudging admiration at home. The son of a famous children's writer and grandson of a distinguished general, Mr Gaidar pushed his establishment credentials to undermine the Soviet system from within: he was economics editor of a prestigious journal and later of *Pravda* in the final years of communism.



ARKADY Volsky, 60, a skilled and influential political operator, is a former party apparatchik who now presents himself as spokesman for bosses and workers at Russia's giant industrial plants. This summer he founded "Renewal", a group that lobbied on behalf of factory directors struggling with market reforms, and then helped to found the Civic Union, which aimed to become chief power-broker in the legislature. He says he supports reforms, though at a slower pace than Mr Gaidar advocates. He was an adviser to Andropov and Chernenko.



RUSLAN Khasbulatov, 50, a mysterious figure in Russian political life and the parliamentary chairman who emerged in 1990 as a leading advocate of political and economic change, has this year shifted his position and made repeated attacks on fast-track reform. A skillful manipulator of parliamentary procedure, the chain-smoking economics professor has often caused outrage. He described the cabinet last spring as worms and then — despite tape-recorded evidence — denied having done so. He is conscious of his roots among the Chechen warrior race.



ALEKSANDR Rutskoi, 45, a dashing air force officer was shot down twice during bombing raids in Afghanistan. The vice-president personifies one important faction in the Yeltsin camp: the faction that rejects the ideology of Marxism but retains the idea of Russia as a great power. He emerged last year as leader of a "liberal communist" parliamentary faction which delivered key votes to Mr Yeltsin. While broadly loyal to Mr Yeltsin, he has attacked the Gaidar cabinet and called for a tough line towards other former Soviet republics.



Close up: a Russian deputy tries to get a better view of President Yeltsin at the people's Congress in Moscow yesterday. The Congress passed a resolution condemning the government's record, thus narrowing Mr Yeltsin's means of ensuring that his reforms continue

## Baby food to reach Vitez by Christmas

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

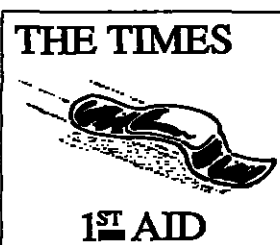
THE 1st AID appeal, which aims to raise £1 million for immediate disaster relief by January 1, is about to fund its first mission.

The appeal is financing a life-saving delivery of baby food to the former Yugoslavia. The baby food will be delivered to refugees near Vitez and Travnik in Bosnia before Christmas.

Refugees living in freezing conditions in temporary homes, or in what remains of their houses after shelling, are being forced to feed babies and young children on watery soup or bread dipped in tea. Many homes are without heating, light or proper shelter. Shortages of baby food are chronic, and even more severe than the shortages of adult food.

The supplies will be taken to Split, Croatia, in a 20-ton lorry by Feed the Children, the largest British agency taking aid directly to former Yugoslavia. From Split it will be transferred to four-wheel drive trucks to be ferried across the border to Vitez. Feed the Children's base in Bosnia, then to go immediately to refugees in Travnik and elsewhere. The food should be with the mothers and babies by December 20.

Stewart Crocker, fund-raising director of Feed the Children, said the lorry was one of about 20 travelling to the former Yugoslavia that week. "This lorry will get priority because there is a chronic shortage of baby food. Babies are not receiving any specialised food. Most relief food is destined for adult consumption. This is a valuable proposition and 1st AID is providing another source of



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Building society proposals to discriminate in favour of married couples are unfair, unjust and unworkable, argues Matthew Parris

Single, childless people are to pay more for our mortgages. The Bristol & West building society is considering differential interest rates, loaded against single people because we are the type of individual they think more likely to default. "Not bonded by marriage," is the delicate phrase chosen by Tony Fitzsimmons, their chief executive, to describe our fickle and uncreditworthy natures.

Ha! So it has come to this? My fury was aggravated by the knowledge that I have no mortgage with the Bristol & West and am therefore denied the pleasure of marching down to the nearest branch to withdraw it and take my custom elsewhere.

So I had been alternately cursing and brooding (we single people, when not busy defaulting on debts, are subject to wild swings of mood) and kicking things.

My rage swelled as news about the new council tax was announced. My bill, it seems, may

approach £1,000. For this I get my dustbin emptied once a week by the Derbyshire Dales district council. The rest of the money goes to help the county council educate the children I don't have, fund the social services department's work dealing with wife-beating and domestic violence among married couples, build the council houses for which they have priority on the waiting list, repair the bus shelters smashed by their kids, and care for them in old age when the offspring upon whom they have blown all their savings desert them.

Where will it end? Shall single Telecom subscribers pay a surcharge because we are more likely to default? What about the interest rates on our Visa cards? Should we be allowed to drive cars at all, our

motoring habits being unrestrained by any fear of orphaning little dependants? Perhaps we should be restricted to humdrum employment in posts of a non-sensitive sort, unguided as we are by concern for posterity.

Matrimony! Bah! Humbug! Then I read *The Times* leading article. My blood ran cold. It supported the Bristol & West. This move, it argued, was "no less discriminatory than the policy of motor insurers who charge twice as much to a 23-year-old driving a hot hatchback as to a 55-year-old grandmother."

Grandmother! Notice that? There they go again. She's a grandmother so she's presumably incapable of jumping a red light. Ah no, argues *The Times*, leading

premiums against whole categories of individuals on the basis of half-cock actuarial generalisations is, they accept, rough justice on the untypical safe 23-year-old driver, but he just has to accept that he is part of a class of motorists who scores badly.

So if I were to discover (say) that one of the ethnic groups making up our population has an appreciably worse motoring record than another, then *The Times* would rally behind colour-testing for insurance premiums, would it?

And I will tell you something else. Mr Times leaderwriter: The only reason the 23-year-old takes out motor insurance at all is because it is compulsory. If the

motor insurance business was a genuinely free market instead of a state-sponsored scam, then individuals aggrieved that the insurer was failing to assess them as individuals and lumping them into crude and inappropriate classes, would screw up their cover notes and stuff them where I would be stuffing my Bristol & West mortgage deeds, if I had any.

Which moves me from my extended harangue to the gravamen of my complaint. Let me put the building society argument as fairly as I can, then reply.

The Bristol & West say that there is nothing inherently unjust about making good risks pay for bad risks. To lump us all together without regard for our own particulars is rough justice, but insurers

have to do it to some degree. Until now, all mortgages have been treated as an undifferentiated mass, and charged the same. The better risks have subsidised the worse. It is to rectify that that Bristol & West wants to create sub-species among mortgages and differentiate. They accept that some injustices will result, but argue that this is the cost of mitigating a larger injustice.

And my reply? In logic they are right. Indeed their logic can be taken further. It might prove applicable to racial groupings, who might have different cultural attitudes towards debt. It might apply to gender differences: women are better debtors than men. Single homosexual men, furthermore, are better risks than single heterosexual

men, as they are less likely to saddle themselves with family obligations they cannot sustain. Further, senior civil servants are probably a better risk than journalists and certainly safer than navies in other words, a job-class test could help in classifying risk. Devout members of any Protestant church, I believe, would be among the best risks in Britain.

In short, my friends at Bristol & West, proceed further down the road on which you propose to start and you will quickly find yourself risking the injustice which rankles most in any man or woman: individuals deeply resent assumptions being made about them on the basis of supposed categories. In England, sex, class, morals and career status are the categories on which we are at our most prickly. They are also categories with obvious potential for assumptions about credit worthiness. Go no further, B & W. You have been warned!

## The battle for Russia's soul

Hardliners are poised to derail Yeltsin's plans, says Anne McElvay

Set-piece power struggles are built into the fabric of Russian history. The old Leninist question of who wields the power, in whose name and for whose benefit is at the core of this week's events in Kremlin palace, home to Russia's Congress of People's Deputies.

The outcome of the assembly will determine whether the reforms begun by President Yeltsin can continue. The alternative is a triumph for the hardliners who are seeking reversal of the radical changes and would set the country back on the road to centralism.

Unlike the revolutionaries of 1917, Boris Yeltsin does not have the option of ruthlessly violent methods, followed by administrative repression, to ensure that his vision of Russia holds sway. Such is the price of democracy.

Congress so far has not been a success for the Yeltsin team. It meets at the nadir of the reform programme with inflation and unemployment rising, and the rouble plummeting. The president's opponents believe that a return to centralism can keep unprofitable factories open and the workers employed while still pursuing reform.

The recommendations of the Civic Union, which ranks as the moderate alternative to the present strategy, although hidden behind the slogan "slower-paced reform", would signal an end to the transition to a market economy. It believes the state should bail out the bloated military-industrial enterprises which Stalin created and the Cold War sustained.

The forces of the reformers and hinderers is finely balanced but many of the votes, such as yesterday's resolution demanding fundamental changes to the reform programme, indicate that a broad church of unreconstructed communists, military men and pragmatic industrialists are in the majority. All have an interest in protecting themselves from radical changes to their state-protected influence.

In an ideal world the Congress would not be taking place at all. A vestige of the Gorbachev years packed with former communists, it is a kangaroo court of conservatism presiding over a reformist government. Mr Yeltsin is quite right to pursue with vigour the separation of executive and legislative powers. Most worrying is the number of

close conservatives whose commitment to change is merely external. It is no accident (as the communists were fond of remarking) that the podium scuffle broke out over whether the ballot on constitutional amendments should be secret. The liberals fear that many who outwardly support Mr Yeltsin would vote against him in a secret ballot and the backroom pacts would collapse.

In this climate there is little chance of the government reaching a peaceful compromise with the opposition and Mr Yeltsin is having to consider emergency solutions, such as whether to bypass Congress altogether and instigate direct presidential rule. This would be a risky strategy since it would invite civil unrest and, being both unconstitutional and autocratic, would be hard to explain to the West.

The alternative being mooted by his advisors is a deal with Civic Union, giving them a handful of cabinet posts in the government. Although buying the president time this risks bringing opponents of reform close to the heart of government from where they could strike power.

The Civic Union's vision of Russia should worry the West, not just because its nostrums will further weaken the economy, deepening the dangers of instability and the lure of nationalism, but because its affiliations with the military will encourage the retention of a huge army, increased arms production and exports and a greater role for the generals in the running of the state. It is not concerned with integration, harbouring isolationist visions of a Great Russia behind the bland slogan of "self-reliance". Many Civic Union activists consider the dissolution of the Soviet Union a mistake and are much readier than Mr Yeltsin to risk intervening in other republics.

Nor is the opposition committed to democracy — its guru Arkadi Volsky talks of a "Chinese way" for Russia, citing Beijing's economic successes without mentioning the political conditions which accompany them.

The Russian flag hangs half-unfurled above the assembly platform, reflecting the country's uneasy poise between reform and regression; no one yet dares guess who will capture it.

His opponents all have an interest in protecting themselves from further radical reforms

America is taking up the white man's burden with its misguided intervention in Somalia

## This caring imperialism

Take up the White Man's burden  
The savage wars of peace  
Fill full the mouth of famine  
And bid the sickness cease.

This is the way a war starts, not with a bang but a slither. The British government is being sucked into three distant conflicts at the behest of American (and some British) public opinion. It must resist.

Not content with trying to democratise Cambodia and partition Iraq, a transitional American government appears to be steeling itself to go to war with what passes for Somalia and Serbia. As is now customary, these wars are surrounded with euphemism. They are under a "multilateral UN umbrella". They are to keep the peace, monitor democracy, protect aid. Soldiers merely escort convoys and enforce exclusion zones — until things go wrong. Then public opinion reacts and people like

SIMON LEWIS

Douglas Hurd get "very angry". Soldiers start killing and getting killed. When we stopped trying to police Beirut in 1984 — a classic "humanitarian" operation — thousands lay dead; over 200 of them "ours".

The itch to intervene is round again. A War Party is in full cry, most strident in the American press. The *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *International Herald Tribune* run daily calls to arms. Columnists Anthony Lewis, Jim Hoagland and Leslie Gelb rewrite scripts for *Oh What a Lovely War!* Lewis trumpets Somalia as a "world scandal" (surely it is a Somali scandal). The arms lobby is on parade, talking of "precision targeting" Serbian guns and disabling Serbian transport. "Serbia cannot win," they crow in tones recalling General Westmoreland. Soon their bombers will be "taking out terrorist villages". Britain's Paddy Ashdown says that one bash on the nose from Our Boys will have Johnny Serb crawling back to Belgrade.

There are already 20,000 foreign troops in former Yugoslavia, the largest UN force assembled since Korea. That number has topped the second largest, 16,000 in Phnom Penh, where it is trying to decide whether to defend Cambodian democracy against the renegade Khmer Rouge or turn tail and flee. That awful dilemma was predictable from the start of this mad venture, but nobody thought to think. Undaunted, the UN is sending 28,000 Americans ashore in Somalia, where each warlord has offered them an ominous welcome. In Mogadishu, extorting aid workers is the only business in town. Now it is to be extorting Americans.



Heading towards a savage war of peace: the West is in danger of being embroiled in an unwinnable conflict

The *Herald Tribune* reports that American strategy in Somalia is simple: to intimidate the warlords by "blowing up one of their pickups with an M1 tank". Then a "political and administrative structure" will be set up and the Americans can leave by January 20. Much the same was said in Vietnam. We are told by the *Financial Times* that "a well paid and trained Somali police force will have to be established... Once in place and the cycle of criminality broken, foreign troops can retreat to a minimum role and the UN can sponsor a national conference to prepare the way for elections." Every report from the ground shows this is fantasy.

Washington will have either to rule Somalia indefinitely and against growing local resistance, or support one of the warlords, swamp him with weapons and get out. In the latter case, anarchy and famine will simply resume apace, as in Mozambique and Liberia, exhausted or a neighbouring power takes over. We learn nothing from the history of these civil wars. The only victor is the arms salesman. The only yield a glow of moral contentment for editorial writers. In Ku-

wait, the allies had a legal basis for intervention and a clear military and political goal. No clarity of means or ends lies behind action in Somalia or Serbia. The War Party seems unconcerned. The *Washington Post* has a brand new American ideology to cheer on the troops: "Countries that fail to care decently for their citizens", it asserts, "dilute their claim to sovereignty and forfeit invulnerability to outside political-military intervention."

Really? Is this to be Bill Clinton's America? If so, it goes far beyond the Cold War doctrines of Dulles, Kennedy, Nixon and Kissinger, that foreign intervention was justified only if invited to save a nation from communism. If the *Post* is right, three-quarters of the globe is now at risk of attack from America or its UN proxies.

Of course rich countries are moved by the horror of war and famine beyond their borders. They help best by offering shelter to refugees and by supporting civilian charities. It may rarely be feasible to insert charity on the ground by main force, without taking sides

and worsening the strife, but I doubt it. That is plainly not the case with the siege-breaking convoys of Bosnia and the "aid warriors" that will now sustain an anarchic equilibrium in Somalia.

The War Party is motivated not by humanitarianism but by a desire to see a particular evil smashed. Its humanitarianism is proxy for more active worldwide engagement by the West after the ending of the Cold War. In principle such commitment, notably by the US, is no bad thing. It saved Kuwait and mitigated American isolationism. But as the world saw in the 1970s and 1980s, engagement by outsiders so easily aggravates conflict: then in Vietnam, in Lebanon, in Angola, in Sri Lanka; now in Bosnia, in Somalia, in Cambodia, perhaps again in Iraq, in Armenia, even in South Africa.

American liberalism is behaving as if it had found its first just war since 1939. There is no sense of proportion: every enemy is Hitler. Here is a new jihad, a global crusade against man's inhumanity to man, a holy war stripped of self-interest, stripped even of hope of victory. Like all jihads, calm assess-

ment of costs and benefits is treated as contemptible. Send in the troops and damn the consequences. It is every politician's cop-out and every soldier's dread. Such crusades measure their glory in body bags.

Perhaps there will be a wider war in the Balkans, in East Africa, in Cambodia. If so, I hope the outside world stays clear, clear with its money, its weapons and its moral confusion. We can relieve pain but we cannot rule the world. Last week, America withdrew its last troops from the Philippines, a century after they first arrived. I wonder how soon they will return, driven back by the hysterics of network television.

Many think Kipling wrote "The White Man's Burden" to glorify the British empire. He did not. He wrote it to warn Americans of the perils of empire, when America was seizing Subic Bay from the Spanish in 1898. Its subtitle was "The United States and the Philippine Islands". Its message to the armchair imperialists was bleak.

The poem is still not dead. The roads we shall not tread, Go make them with your living, And mark them with your dead.

## Rooting for a Windsor dig

IT MAY be an *annus horribilis* for the royal household but the fire which devastated Windsor Castle could make it an *annus mirabilis* for archaeologists, already abuzz with excitement about what might be uncovered by the blaze. If they can get at the remains, that is.

As the Royal Berkshire Rescue Service issued its somewhat inconclusive report yesterday into the fire a fortnight ago, a team of archaeologists from the Central Archaeology Service was still waiting in the palace wings ready to excavate material which they believe will date from the twelfth century.

The archaeologists themselves say diplomatically that they have been unable to reach the damaged areas for safety reasons, but one insider said yesterday that the royal household was being less than helpful. "They are often difficult about access and, from what I have heard, little has changed," he said.

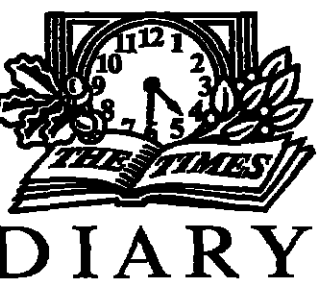
Brian Kerr, one of 30 archaeologists who will be involved in the initial excavation, said at Windsor yesterday: "We would certainly hope to excavate, going back at least as far as the reign of Henry II and, who knows, possibly even further. This would include parts of

the King's Chamber, the King's Hall and other important 12th-century palace buildings."

Professor Martin Biddle, the eminent Oxford medieval archaeologist, says that the Prince of Wales, himself a student of archaeology, might get involved: "It is such an important matter that I feel sure he cannot but be interested."

English Heritage, in charge of the programme, appears to have its hands tied by Buckingham Palace. Palace officials refused to comment. "We will not say anything until we know about the restoration programme," said one.

● The congregation at John Gummer's local church in Ealing should not be too alarmed when he does not turn up on Sunday morning. Gummer, who has resigned his seat on the General Synod, has not yet left the Church of England, despite his opposition to women priests. But the agriculture minister will be worshipping this Sunday in St Lucia, where he flew this weekend to "talk about bananas". Gummer's spokesman says: "I spoke to him on his carphone earlier and he told me that St Lucia's Anglican church



does not have women priests. He'll be attending mass. I think he's looking forward to the visit."

### Shelf life

DESPITE the recession, Peter de Savary has lost little of his entrepreneurial spirit. Following news of his Hogmanay "rave" at Littlecote House, the Elizabethan mansion near Hungerford, comes word that de Savary is setting up a "personal collections" exhibition there.

De Savary has placed an advert in this month's *The Field* seeking "interesting historical collections" for the house's long gallery. Collectors are offered the chance to lend their exhibits "free of charge". There is no mention of the fact that de Savary charges a £4.80 entry fee to the house and grounds.

David Redfern, de Savary's

spokesman, denies that the businessman is feeling the pinch. "I'm sure they will be happy to lend their stuff. They know the rules. No one is recession-proof but Mr de Savary is still here and still going strong."

### Ill wind?

IF Norman Lamont is still searching for the economic miracle he should take a trip to Florida, where inhabitants are just beginning to discover the silver lining left by the clouds of hurricane Andrew. A University of Florida study shows that post-hurricane rebuilding will boost the economy until 1995. Next year employment is expected to grow by 3.8 per cent. Had Andrew not happened the growth rate would have been 2.8 per cent. Growth in real personal income, 0.3 per cent this year, is expected to be 4.9 per cent next year, thanks largely to insurance pay-outs — a prediction to make Lloyd's names choke on their champagne.

### Pink'un

WHILE John Smith tried this week to modernise the Labour party by severing its union links, the party's co-ordinating committee was taking a step back in the past. Set up in the 1980s as an intellectual alternative to the hard left, the



● Sir Denis Thatcher's renowned equilibrium at Number 10 Downing Street is said to have had much to do with the golf course. That may soon be a pleasure of the past. Thatcher, left, disclosed to fellow guests, who included Vivien Duffield, centre, and Gerald Ranson, right, at the £1,000 a head Anglo-Israel dinner on Thursday night at Guildhall that he had cut down his golf. "I'm afraid my back is rather painful. I'm frankly playing less and less these days." He does, however, espouse the merits of playing the game in a warm climate. "I think the sun would ease my back," he added, fueling speculation that the Thatchers' next incarnation might be as neighbours of the Reagans in California.

Labour co-ordinating committee is bringing out a new magazine.

With the support of such luminaries as Bryan Gould, the magazine, called *Renewal*, will be distributed to all the party's opinion makers. And who prints it? Step forward Lawrence & Wishart, the south London printers, closely connected to the old Communist Party of Great Britain, since renamed the Democratic Left.

### Bitter bit

DEDICATED admen are used to plunging themselves into the product they are selling. Those devising ads for soap powder wash their underpants in it; those flagging coffee drink it all day long. Nevertheless, it came as a shock to Rob Burleigh, a copywriter for the London advertising agency Euro RSCG, when he received an unexpected taste of

his latest product. Burleigh, who has just written a poster slogan publicising the housing charity Shelter, was evicted from his London flat last weekend.

"I had been given a month's notice by my landlord," he says, "but I could not find anywhere else and she flew off the handle. I got this phone call at work saying she had evicted me." It took him weeks to retrieve his belongings, deposit and advance rent.

Burleigh says that if he had not been able to move in with his girlfriend, he would have been on the streets — his family lives in Nottingham. "I've never been homeless before and I never want to be again. It brought home the importance of the Shelter campaign."







## AGAINST AGGRESSION

The West needs a winter of statesmanship to curb a Balkan war

Arthur Koestler once warned on these pages that a "decade of demagogues" in different parts of the world might be a matched by a "decade of dentists" in the leadership of the West. He was writing about the Eighties and he was wrong. Today, as Serbia struts and Bosnia burns, it seems that the great man may have been merely misled in his timing.

European leaders are preparing for next week's Edinburgh summit. The talk is of debate and subsidiarity, enlargement and Maastricht: the subject might as well be molars. But, slowly, quietly, and at lower levels in the chancelleries of Europe, there is growing worry about greater matters: in five years' time, it is said, we may look back to winter, 1992, and ask why Western governments refused to use the weapons they command to save Europe from a widening war.

Any words of pre-emptive military action to avert war are still barely whispered. When the whisper is heard, it is muffled and stifled by arguments that "nothing can be done... the public would not put up with the casualties... and the Balkans always have abominably, don't they?". On the other side of the Atlantic, policy is in flux. America acquiesced in the EC's early, rash insistence that this was Europe's problem. Now it awaits President Clinton, a man whose character is shaped both by hatred of the Vietnam war and love of John F. Kennedy. How will he judge the threat to peace from Serbian ambitions? No one knows.

Everyone in Western public office, anxious with reason to avoid intervening militarily in a notoriously complex region, has maintained so far that in this nasty little "local" or "civil" war, the correct policy is diplomacy coupled with a small peacekeeping effort and humanitarian assistance. This position, though appearing as one of prudence, is a gamble that neither addresses, nor was designed to address, a real and present danger of international conflict. Governments are only now beginning to consider just how combustible the Balkans could be, if the war in Bosnia is not stopped.

Serbian territorial ambitions are not confined to Croatia and Bosnia; they extend to areas only thinly inhabited by Serbs. Belgrade has claims on Macedonia to the south, over which two Balkan wars have been fought this century. Cyrus Vance, a consummate cautious diplomat, worries publicly that "a spark from Macedonia could ignite the whole region". Serbian nationalists are already talking about "a weekend in Skopje". Were Serbian forces to move south, Bulgaria, Albania and even Greece could join a war of partition, reviving ancient territorial claims.

Fighting in Macedonia could spark an explosion in Kosovo, which Serbia views as its historical heartland but where Albanians form an exploited and bitterly resentful 90 per cent Muslim majority. A Serb crackdown could bring in Albania; Turkey would be pressed to intervene by Islamic countries, which already see the Bosnian war in terms of a Christian onslaught against Muslims. Two Nato members, Greece and Turkey, could be on opposing sides in a wider war.

The principles that the West laid down when fighting first broke out in the former Yugoslavia are sound enough. But first in Croatia, and now in Bosnia, the West has failed to enforce the idea that frontiers should be protected from forcible change. British, French and other troops have been drawn into the Balkans slowly and without a coherent strategy. Nearly 23,000 UN troops are policing enclaves in Croatia and ferrying food parcels across the war-zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina. But no Western government has accepted the case for sending troops to Bosnia to enforce the peace. None even countenances the use of force to prevent the armed obstruction of the relief effort.

Ronald Reagan said yesterday in the Oxford Union that "when the nations of the UN commit themselves to medical and food relief they should also commit the resources, and above all the will, to deliver the supplies regardless of roaming bandits who would thwart the international consensus". There is little sign that he will be heard.

For months it has been evident that the Serbs will stop fighting and cede territory only when their leaders are convinced that this is a war they cannot win without impoverishment, isolation and unacceptable casualties. At the moment they are convinced of the opposite case. Because the UN forces are not mandated or equipped to fight back, their presence may even reinforce the Serbs' conviction that the world has nothing to throw at them but words.

The Serbs may well be right. There is a non-interventionist solution which, however cynical, has all the appeal of simplicity. Western meddling, it is said, just prolongs the agony. The Bosnian Muslims have lost the war, and suffering would be most speedily relieved if the world came to terms with reality and redrew the borders between the former Yugoslavia's republics, taking account of the aggressors' military gains.

Let no one think that such a policy is free of risk. There is dangerous precedent in inaction. Acceptance of Serbian gains would encourage demagogues and ethnic conflict across practically every frontier in Central and Eastern Europe. A Realpolitik attitude to Serbian success might keep American and European troops out of fighting in the Balk-

ans for the time being. But it would not stop the war in Bosnia, or avert the risk of the war's spreading. The Bosnian Serbs' hold over the lands they have conquered is both precarious and contested by Croats as well as Muslims: if the Bosnian Muslims were deserted by the West, Serbs and Croats would fight over the country's corpse. The risks of a wider conflict would be undiminished.

There is a second, more far-reaching objection to rewarding Serbian aggression. Almost 40 countries went to war with Iraq, under Western leadership, to defend the postwar structure of international law. Islamic countries see the West's readiness to counter to Serbian aggression as a test of good faith. Should it be proved openly to them that the war over Kuwait was no more than "a war about oil", the West will be weakened in attempts to win collective action in future under the United Nations emblem.

A much-discussed alternative to direct Western intervention would be to send UN troops to Macedonia and Kosovo, while arming and training Bosnia's defenders much as the West armed the Afghan mujahideen. Many Bosnians ask for nothing more. But it would take years to forge untrained volunteers into a fighting force.

The West must test the Serbs' will and capacity to continue the fight. Meaningless bluff will not work. What is needed is the threat of a timetable, leading to military enforcement of the peace under either Chapter VII or Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. Both out of principle and to win Russian assent to collective action against fellow-Slavs, the UN must be even-handed. Croatia should be put under notice of UN sanctions unless it withdraws all troops from Herzegovina and ceases to support Bosnian Croat operations there.

The first step must be to enforce the UN ban on flights over Bosnia, routinely violated by the Serbs, shooting down aircraft and destroying any bases from which they take off. Britain, France, Spain and Canada fear that their troops would come under Serb fire: they are coming under fire now. The answer is to empower them to return fire in good earnest, rather than merely in self-defence.

The Bosnian Serbs are heavily reliant on Belgrade for money, food and munitions. Serbia should be warned that unless these deliveries cease, air power will also be used to bombard depots and strategic routes into Bosnia.

A year ago, *The Times* argued that before recognising Bosnia, the UN must dispatch peacekeepers to prevent the war spreading from Croatia. That advice was ignored. The EC must not repeat the same mistake; Macedonia must receive the thousand UN troops it has requested before, not after, recognition.

Western governments should simultaneously prepare for the dispatch of a larger UN force, equipped "to enforce the peace by all available means" if Serbia has not implemented a genuine ceasefire by a given date, formally accepted the principle that frontiers will not be changed by force and started to negotiate seriously.

Every government which commits troops to such a force must be prepared for the possibility that they will have to be used in combat. There will be casualties, and risks to the civilian population. But civilians are already suffering horribly, and opponents of intervention exaggerate both the feats of Tito's partisans against the Germans in the last war and the fighting prowess of the Serbs in this war.

War against Serbia might indeed demand 100,000 or more troops, the figure bandied around the dentists' waiting rooms of the free world. But war against Serbia is not, and should not be, considered. The UN should be there to stop the fighting and push the Serbs (and Croats) back from Bosnian territory taken by force. With the support of air power, Nato's logistical resources and superior training and equipment, a smaller force could turn the tide.

None of this will happen without the leadership of Britain, France and America — the countries which would have to contribute most of the frontline troops. Little of that is apparent. Nato is, as Mr Reagan said yesterday, "tragically inactive".

The need for a tougher Western approach is daily spelled out in blood. Britain could and should use the special influence it has in Washington during a change of presidency. But unless Britain can overcome its reluctance to take military action, there is little chance of America joining Europe in action for which US military support, at least by air and sea, is indispensable.

Much has changed since the summer in Luxembourg when the EC first set out to mediate, proclaiming that "the hour of Europe" had come. Catalysts for a new strategy will include Western public horror at the winter suffering in Bosnia and the impression that a swelling refugee exodus makes on the most cynical of Western governments. That is the optimist's scenario. The pessimist's is that action may be forced on the West by the crisis on Nato's southern flank, as the third Balkan war begins.

To wait until that happens cannot be in the interests of the West. Compassion has already drawn international forces into Bosnia. Interest now joins with compassion. Leadership is needed to promote that truth.



## Maastricht and referendums

From Mr George Cunningham

Sir, If the Deputy Speaker, despite his indication that he is still open to persuasion on the matter (report December 2), in the end refuses to allow members of Parliament to vote on an effective amendment requesting a referendum before the Maastricht treaty is built into British law, it will be a significant reflection on the role of the Chair as defender of the rights of the House as a whole.

The bills on Scottish and Welsh devolution in the 1970s did not initially include provision for referendums; amendments requiring them were added during consideration in the House. It cannot therefore be argued that a referendum clause is "outside the scope of the bill", the usual ground for ruling an amendment out of order.

As to the argument that it is improper for private members, as against the government, to initiate proposals having expenditure implications, the fact is that masses of amendments with some such implications are accepted every session and that they normally fall foul of the rule only if they directly and specifically authorise money to be spent. Even the House of Lords, theoretically debarred from considering money matters, has found ways of advancing proposals which raise expenditure.

In the light of the Deputy Speaker's remark that members should exercise greater ingenuity in trying to draft a referendum amendment, perhaps the greatest danger is that he will accept only an "opinion-expressing motion" which the government will be free to accept or reject. This will not do; it is for the House finally to decide the issue, not the government.

The Speaker and all her deputies must accept their responsibility to see that members are able to do all natural things arising on draft legislation placed before them. If they do not, one will have to conclude that the Chair is more concerned to please the government than to uphold the rights of the House, as it has sworn to do.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE CUNNINGHAM  
(Labour MP for Islington South, 1970-83)  
28 Manor Gardens,  
Hampton, Middlesex  
December 2.

From Mr Martin Howe

Sir, On November 3, just before the Maastricht "paving" debate, you reported the prime minister as reassuring Conservative MPs that the preamble to the Maastricht treaty is just "Euro-waffle" which has "no legal force whatever".

This is puzzling. Probably the single most fundamental constitutional case to have come before the European Court of Justice was *Van Gend en Loos* [1963] ECR I. This established the principle that Community law is directly applicable and "constitutes a new legal order, the subjects of which comprise not only Member States but also their nationals". The court's reasoning was explicitly based on "the preamble to the [Rome] Treaty which refers not only to governments but to peoples".

*Van Gend en Loos* is one of the best known decisions of the European court and is taught to students on elementary courses about European Community law. It is disturbing that the advice apparently given to the prime minister should contain so basic a misconception, since it calls into question the quality of the advice he is receiving on other aspects of this treaty.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN HOWE,  
Francis Taylor Building,  
Temple, EC4,  
December 1.

## Paying the piper

From the Secretary-General of the Arts Council of Great Britain

Sir, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies refers (letter, December 3) to a report in *The Times* in which I was quoted as saying that giving money to composers was "not directly related" to the Arts Council's policy of support for artists.

The quotation is self-evident and arrant nonsense and must have arisen from a misinterpretation of what was said. In fact support for composers is a perfect example of the policy to which I referred — the Arts Council exists to serve the arts.

Yours sincerely  
ANTHONY EVERITT,  
Secretary-General,  
The Arts Council of Great Britain,  
14 Great Peter Street, SW1,  
December 3.

## Fit and proper

From Dr P. Glaister

Sir, The decision by the Danish company Lego to build a theme park on the site of the former Windsor safari park (report, December 3) should come as welcome news for some of those hit by the recession in this area, particularly small firms of builders, or should I say firms of small builders.

Yours faithfully,  
P. GLAISTER,  
3 Innow Road,  
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.  
December 3.

## John Gummer's reasons for quitting synod examined

From the Reverend D. B. Webb

Sir, John Gummer's resignation from the General Synod (report, December 2) and the reasons advanced for it raise some issues that call for clarification.

It is not the intention of the General Synod "to change the orders", but merely to admit to the priesthood people without distinction of gender.

Mr Gummer mentions "the authority of the (Church) fathers". They have many things to say about the qualities required in priests: love of God, love of the people, humility, lack of ambition, gifts of intelligence and oratory, holiness, etc., but they hardly ever mention masculinity. These gifts can be found in women.

Mr Gummer claims the Church "has arrogated to itself power it could not possibly have". Article XX says: "The Church hath power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith: And yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain any thing that is contrary to God's Word written..."

I have looked carefully to see whether the ordination of women is consonant with Scripture, and believe it is. There is nothing in Article XX about "Catholic tradition", although Article XIX says: "The Church of Rome hath erred, not only in their lives and manner of Ceremonies, but also in matters of Faith". There is no reason why we should have to wait for Rome in this matter.

Yours etc.,  
DAVID WEBB,  
St James' Vicarage, Church Lane,  
Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancashire.  
December 2.

From Mr Roger Fry

Sir, Article 8 of schedule 2 of the Synodical Government Measure, 1969 enables the General Synod of the Church of England to pass measures and canons that change the ordinal.

Has Mr John Gummer, who joined the synod in 1979, only now discovered he disagrees with the constitution?

Yours faithfully,  
ROGER FRY  
(Member, House of Lords),  
11 Eveleigh Road, Farnborough,  
Portsmouth, Hampshire.  
December 2.

From Sir Leslie Fielding

Sir, While sympathising with John Gummer, I have resigned after two years from the General Synod for different reasons.

Like many middle-of-the-road Anglicans, I am agnostic about women priests. But any such really major move ought to be taken only by an equally major consensus within the Church of England. The synod has

not demonstrated such a consensus, in part because it is a flawed and self-suspecting institution.

One of the last acts of the previous General Synod was to call for a radical reappraisal of its own composition, purposes and procedures. One of the next acts of the present General Synod will be to effect that overhaul. Meanwhile it is in no position fundamentally to modify the apostolic priesthood by qualified majority voting, as if it were fixing subsidies on oilseed rape in Brussels.

The decision on women priests was un-Anglican, and I want no part in the body which took it.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE FIELDING  
Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex, 1987-92,  
Sutton Court, Stanton Lacy,  
Ludlow, Shropshire.  
December 2.

From Mrs Caroline Armitage

Sir, In resigning from the General Synod, Mr Gummer stated that he felt "excluded". How does he think women members of the Church have felt for centuries?

Yours sincerely,  
CAROLINE D. ARMITAGE,  
33a Spencers Road,  
Horsham, West Sussex.  
December 2.

From the Chaplain of Christ's College, Cambridge

Sir, The Dean of Queens' College Cambridge, Brian Hebblethwaite (letter, November 28), accuses the former Bishop of London of "theological illiteracy" — in thinking there to be a serious doctrinal issue behind the decision to ordain women priests. However, there are, I suggest, several serious theological issues behind that decision.

First, there is the place of the Bible in the decision-making process of the church. The New Testament appears to teach that women should not be in positions of ultimate teaching authority (1 Timothy ii, 12). Should that be decisive for the modern Church? If not, on what basis do we decide which passages are to be followed and which are not?

The second issue it raises is the place of the wider Church in the decision-making process of the Church of England. Is it enough to get a two-thirds majority of General Synod, or should some consensus first be reached within "the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church" of which the Church of England claims to be a part?

Thirdly, there is the relationship between men and women in the creation purposes of God. Is that relationship to be symmetrical or

complementary? Does equality of status require identity of role?

The Dean of Queens' may disagree with the former Bishop of London on the answers to these questions, but they are clearly issues that are both theological and serious. Just how serious can be gauged from the fact that belief in the virgin birth or the physical resurrection are not prerequisites for episcopal appointment, but belief in the ordination of women may well now be required.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL LLOYD,  
Chaplain,  
Christ's College, Cambridge.

From Mr Colin W. V. McCleery

Sir, The suggestion from Simon Hughes, MP (report, December 2, early editions), that Mr Gummer "should accept the democratic view of the Church" epitomises all that is wrong with the Church of England. If Anglican doctrine and orders are based on Scripture they cannot also be determined by "democratic" vote.

Yours sincerely (faithfully?),  
C. W. V. McCLEERY,  
Orchard House,  
Rodborough Common,  
Stroud, Gloucestershire.  
December 2.

From Mrs Susan Carson-Rowland

Sir, Since the minute but vociferous minority of Catholic women belonging to the Catholic Women's Network and St Joan's Alliance has been pontificating for years about the necessity of women's ordination, it is depressing to read Ruth Gledhill's report (November 20) that a "new lobby" is being formed.

These groups, knowing well that the Church has declared itself not unwilling, but unable, to ordain women to the priesthood, clearly believe that their personal opinions have greater validity. With their breathless admiration for the "prophetic and courageous decision" of the Church of England synod, it is mysterious that they do not plan to go where their hearts and convictions lie instead of subjecting their Catholic brethren to further displays of bitterness and discontent.

The only viable solution is for disaffected members of both communions to change places. As with the exchange of council houses, advertisements for an opposite number could be placed in the personal columns. Very ecumenical and excluding all possible hint of the dreaded proselytism or "poaching".

Yours faithfully,  
SUSAN CARSON-ROWLAND,  
Barnstead,  
141 Ecclesfield Road, Chapelton,  
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

## Musical variety

From Mr Simon Berry

Sir, Susan Elkin ("Oh for a song to sing Or", November 23) rightly points out that there is much to be gained from school performances of Gilbert and Sullivan. My school has mounted two fully staged performances recently — *Trial by Jury* and *The Mikado*. However, she is quite wrong to criticise schools for investigating other genres. Any stage performance is an ideal method of educating across the traditional boundaries of the curricular subjects, irrespective of its theme.

Ms Elkin obviously revels in the parody and pastiche in Sullivan's scores. Surely it is easier for students to appreciate these nuances after performances of works such as *Magic Flute* or *Die Entfuehrung*.

Many Britten operas, for instance, are planned around the talents of school musicians.

## Prison education

From Mr J. Tall

Sir, As a prisoner in the young offender system I have benefited greatly from the education provided in prison. In the past two years in custody I have gained three A levels (two As, one B) and I will soon acquire a vocational training qualification. More importantly, I have seen many other inmates, often lacking in the most basic academic skills, gain so much from the education department that I am convinced it is worth its weight in gold.

I am thus dismayed by the government's plan (report, August 24) to contract out these services to the private sector from April 1, 1993. Few doubt this will prove to be a system where low cash bids are all-important, with little regard to quality and to the harm which would be caused by the uncertainty involved. This will lead, I believe, to disruption to the education programme in 1993 and a reduction in education standards.

For the government, cost-cutting is clearly the order of the day. Sadly, this will result in a raw deal for prisoners desperately seeking a way out of the rut of criminality, which ultimately will reflect on society in general.

Yours faithfully,  
J. TALL,  
HM Young Offender Institution,  
Bierton Road,  
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

I would always shy away from asking any but the very best of school violinists to tackle a G&S part. When it comes to *Bugy Malone* and *Grease* we should never forget the exacting demands for dancers that would vie in difficulty with any bunch of G&S sailors merrily turning the capstan.

No musical style is to be damned, none should take precedence. G&S should take an equal place with all styles. Perhaps, then, one Savoy operetta every five years?

Sincerely,  
SIMON BERRY  
(Director of Music),  
Lady Margaret School,  
Parson's Green, SW6,  
November 25.

From Miss Hazel R. Morgan

Sir, Susan Elkin believes that "the educational gain" of schools performing Gilbert and Sullivan operettas would be considerable. So might the vocal loss.

## Services and shows

From Dr Denis Cushman

Sir, Graham Young (letter, December 2) expresses disquiet that actors and singers take part in memorial services in church.

Surely they are using God-given talents in God's house, in the good service of others — perhaps friends or relations. I find that wholly appropriate.

Yours faithfully,  
DENIS CUSHMAN,  
4 Derwent Road,  
Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.  
December 2.

## Missing millions

From Mr Peter J. Hyde

Sir, If, after the public spending auditor discovered irregular payments totalling £1,218,000 for an efficiency incentive scheme (report, December 3), the Treasury decides to write off the money as a loss and the defence ministry neither takes disciplinary action nor tries to recover any of the money, why should time and money be wasted in having an audit at all?

Perhaps, to minimise the auditors' disillusionment and frustration, they might be allowed to share in the recreational and social facilities involved in the missing £1.2 million and not spend their time auditing.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER J. HYDE,  
15 Elm Green Close, Worcester.  
December 3.

## Life, death and caring

From Professor and Mrs David Miers

Sir, Correspondence on the case of Tony Bland (November 21, 23, 27) has not addressed the physical, psychological and ethical challenges which would face those charged with caring for, yet withdrawing nourishment from a living body.

Further questions for public discussion and legal address, are whether the responsible physician can be said to speak for all professionals involved in care, and whether the interests of lay carers who are not relatives can be identified and considered.

The complexity of caring should not be ignored.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID MIERS,  
MARGARET MIERS,  
69 Church Road, Whitchurch,  
Cardiff, South Glamorgan.  
November 29.

## A green shoot?

From Mr Anthony Herschel Hill

Sir, At long last I have proof the recession is at an end and recovery is at hand. The bank statement for my deposit account shows: balance 0.00; interest, 0.02; less tax, 0.01; balance, 00.01.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY HERSCHEL HILL,  
70 Prebend Street, NI.



[illegible]



# ARTHUR STEPHENSON

**NUREDDIN ATASSI**

ferred a humiliating defeat. As a consequence, in November, while Atassi was in hospital, General Assad seized power. Atassi was placed under house arrest and later transferred to the al-Mezze military prison in Damascus where he was held, without being charged or put on trial, until April this year. After suffering a heart attack he was moved to Tishrin Military Hospital and, when his condition worsened, the Damascus government allowed him to be moved, in November, to Paris.

## PROFESSOR NORMAN DEES

was director of extra-mural studies at Glasgow.

Dees prided himself on teaching without a note. He pioneered a number of adult education programmes, such as an access programme for mature students in 1979 (the first in Scotland), trade union studies and training for the juvenile justice system.

He became interested in the teaching of Adult Education as an academic discipline and published two books in the field.

Norman Dees is survived by his second wife, Phyllis, and two daughters.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

**FAX: 071 481 9313**

[illegible]









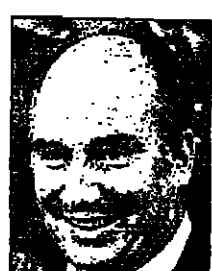
## BUSINESS 17-26

Profile: marketing guru who reigns supreme



## SPORT 27-32

Eric Cantona adds Gallic spice to United's title bid



## RACING 28

Aga Khan loses in the Court of Appeal

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES  
Page 27

# THE TIMES

# 2

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

### WEEKEND MONEY

#### FRAUD WATCH



Banks are bracing themselves for an increase in card fraud but are prepared to fight hard this year to keep losses down  
Page 21

#### LOAN WATCH

Banks should limit guarantees for loans made by parents, spouses or business partners  
Page 23

#### CASE WATCH



Incompetent drafting allowed the Revenue to keep pursuing its case against the Malvern masters  
Letters, page 24

#### TIP WATCH



The Inland Revenue has ways of controlling the black economy by estimating likely income from tips and other perks  
Page 22

#### THE POUND

US dollar 1.5600 (-0.0040)  
German mark 2.4846 (+0.0135)  
Exchange index 80.7 (+0.2)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2082.4 (-9.3)  
FT-SE 100 2759.4 (-11.6)  
New York Dow Jones 3284.90 (+8.37)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17295.69 (+35.61)

#### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 7%  
3-month interbank 7 1/4%  
3-month eligible bills 6 1/4-6 1/2%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 2 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.29-3.27%  
30-year bonds: 10 1/2-10 1/4%

#### CURRENCY RATES

London: New York: £ \$1.5600  
C: DM2.4846 £ DM1.5655  
C: Sfr2.2350 £ Sfr1.4325  
C: FF4.4950 £ FF4.4225  
C: Yen194.85 £ Yen124.90  
C: Index: 65.5  
ECU: £0.79071 SDR: £0.891471  
C: ECU1.26478 £ SDR1.121741  
London Forex market close

#### COMMODITIES

London: New York: AM \$335.90 PM \$335.60  
Close \$335.50-335.90  
2215.10-215.60  
New York: Corn \$35.25-35.75

#### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) ... \$18.40/bbl (\$18.25)

#### RENTAL PRICES

RPI: 139.9 October (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Sugar urges investors to cast votes

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ALAN Sugar, founder of Amstrad, last night said that his plan to take the computer group private was not a foregone conclusion.

Realisation of his ambition to buyout, at 30p a share, the 65 per cent of Amstrad he does not own depends on the number of shareholders (in person or by proxy) voting at a critical shareholders' meeting on Thursday.

Every person and every share counts. Mr Sugar needs a simple majority of non-Sugar shareholders and 75 per cent of non-Sugar votes to win the day. "If shareholders do not vote... then they will get no doosh," Mr Sugar said. Amstrad's disclosure of

■ Alan Sugar's controversial plan to take Amstrad private is on a knife-edge. As the chairman says "If shareholders do not vote... then they will get no doosh"

proxy numbers lodged with its registrars by the close of business on Thursday show that the number of shareholders wanting Mr Sugar's 30p offer, and the number of shares they represent, are short of the statutory requirements. Amstrad has 31,469 shareholders on its share register, but by Thursday only 9,443 had voted.

Mr Sugar said: "There are 22,000 shareholders out there who have not voted, and who have assumed, wrongly, that

their vote does not matter. They might well be assuming, also wrongly, that they do not have to do anything, and that their cheque will come in the post. They need to be shocked, else they will wake up on Friday morning and the reality will hit them that no cheque is coming."

Mr Sugar is not permitted under the scheme of arrangement through which he plans to take Amstrad private to vote his shares on his own proposal. Amstrad has an issued capital of 581 million shares, of which Mr Sugar's holding is 205 million. It is the majority of non-Sugar shareholders and non-Sugar shareholdings that will determine the outcome at Thursday's meeting.

The proxy count shows that by Thursday night, 3,932 shareholders had voted for the 30p offer, and 5,511 against. The number of shares represented was 34.1 million for, and 32.8 million against. On those totals, Mr Sugar's plan would be thrown out.

Gideon Fiegel, of the Amstrad Shareholders Club, opposed to Mr Sugar's plan yesterday lodged 270 proxies representing more than 1 million shares with Amstrad.

Mr Sugar re-affirmed that if the vote went against him on Thursday he "would not do anything spiteful or disruptive". He said: "Up till now, I have worked for the best



Sugar: shock treatment

interests of the company, and I made the 30p offer in what I believe to be the best interests of all shareholders. If the vote goes against me, I will have to think about putting myself first. I would have to consider my position. I would take a dignified position."

Thursday's meeting will be at The Insurance Hall, Aldermanbury, London, whose Great Hall holds 320. If all 31,469 Amstrad shareholders turn up, alternative arrangements will have to be made, Amstrad said.

Jobs gloom deepens, page 18

## Cautious optimism at Treasury adds to sterling appeal

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE government delivered a cautiously upbeat message on the economy yesterday after a week when sterling enjoyed new-found favour with investors disenchanted with the embattled currencies in the exchange rate mechanism.

Interviewed on BBC Radio, Stephen Dorrell, financial secretary to the Treasury, said: "I think there is very clear evidence, not that there's a full-blown recovery under way — we all know that's not true — but that confidence is improving and all the independent analysts now not only say, but are backing their words with money, that they expect a gentle recovery to take root next year."

Such cautious optimism was one element in sterling's new popularity. The pound started the week at about DM2.40, rising rapidly to close nearly nine pence higher at DM2.4870 yesterday.

A week of glimmers of renewed activity in the government's economic statistics was rounded off by a 6 per cent rise in new car registrations in November against the same period last year, suggesting consumers are beginning to respond to lower interest rates and the abolition of car tax in the Autumn Statement.

Such straws in the wind triggered the return of investors who had bailed out of the pound after its exit from the ERM in September. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, told *The Wall Street Journal* that the pound had fallen far enough and any further declines would compromise Britain's fight to control inflation. Of even more significance

for the pound yesterday was the mark's vulnerability as evidence mounts of recession in Germany. Yesterday, the economics ministry announced another fall in west German industrial orders, the eighth consecutive monthly decline.

The mark's troubles took some pressure off the ERM. The franc recovered a little, helped by a joint statement after this week's Franco-German summit that the ERM was "decisive for stability and prosperity". The franc closed at 3.3970 to the mark, having been above 3.4100 earlier in the week.

Other British economic statistics published yesterday offered slim grounds for optimism. There was a 2 per cent rise in the number of houses built in October compared with September but, taking the last three months together, the number of housing starts are still down 9 1/2 per cent on last year.

The government's cyclical indicators for October were a mixed bag for those looking for clear signs of recovery. Although the longer leading index, which points to activity 11 months ahead, rose 1.3 per cent, the shorter leading index — suggesting what might happen in four months — fell. US unemployment fell to 7.2 per cent in November from 7.4 per cent in October, providing more evidence a genuine recovery may now be under way. Non-farm payroll jobs rose 105,000 last month compared with a revised increase of 34,000 in October.

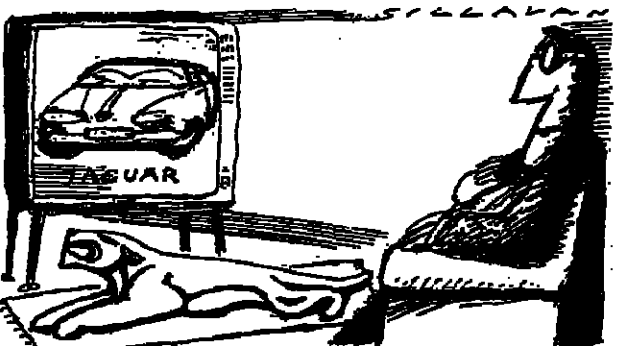
## Jaguar proves it has not lost its teeth

By JON ASHWORTH

THE end of the recession pulls up in our living rooms next week in the shape of six fuel-injected cylinders of polished, purring, chrome-and-steel British workmanship at its best. Jaguar, the luxury car maker which is now American-owned, is cashing in on a surge in sales across the Atlantic with a bumper Christmas television advertising campaign.

In America, where the Jaguar emblem inspires images of Harrods, Barbour jackets and tea at the Ritz, the sleek saloons have suddenly become affordable as well as fashionable.

Thanks to the weaker pound, would-be country gents can now pick up a top-of-the-range Jaguar Vanden Plas sedan for \$57,750. In British showrooms, a similar model sells for about £40,000. Such is the demand for new



models that Jaguar is keeping employees at its plants at Browns Lane, Coventry, and Castle Bromwich, West Midlands, working five instead of four days a week during December, enough to produce an extra 300 cars.

As its sister company, Ford UK, puts thousands of staff on short-time working, Jaguar is going to the other extreme. If a luxury car maker can afford to do that in these bleak times, can the end of the

recession be far away? Jaguar's former employees might see it a little differently. More than 5,200 jobs have been cut since Ford bought the company for £1.6 billion in 1989. The American workforce was cut by 10 per cent last month and a further 200 UK jobs are to go by the spring.

Almost 12 years have gone by since the Big Cat last stalked British television screens. The £2 million commercial, which will be shown

for the first time on Monday evening, features a young Spanish boy enviously stroking the bonnet of a sleek Jaguar XJ6 and dreaming of the day when he, too, might own one. The television advertising will spearhead a barrage of commercials and events designed to promote the new 1993 model range.

Other elements in a massive promotional package include a worldwide golf competition, clay pigeon shooting, concerts and theatrical events, tours of French wine growing areas, antique roadshows and fashion evenings. To round it off, 50,000 potential buyers will receive a copy of the Jaguar owner's handbook and be offered a test drive.

Those who respond quickly enough will get to ride alongside a Jaguar racing team driver in the new flagship XJ220, the world's fastest production car.



Future looks flat: David Thompson of Wolverhampton & Dudley forecasts falling beer consumption

## Brewer lifts dividend on £35m profit

By MARTIN WALLER

DAVID Thompson, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries and a seasoned observer of the brewing scene, has served up a gloomy forecast of falling beer consumption for the next three years. Any upturn thereafter is seen as shared by imports.

Pre-tax profits rose from £33 million to £35.2 million in the year to end-September. A better-than-expected 7.1p final dividend, bringing the total to 11.4p from 10.3p, lifted the shares 9p to 535p.

The company is forecasting another 3 per cent off national beer volumes next year, and Mr Thompson does not expect any upturn until 1996 when rising personal incomes should boost the market. Even then, "the UK market is going to lose quite a lot as a result of imports from France".

The outlook for Wolverhampton in 1993, therefore, was bleak, with fewer opportunities to raise margins through cost-cutting or higher prices. Demand had fallen steadily since the recession started in some of its pubs as customers felt the squeeze on spending.

"We would remain very cautious," said Mr Thompson. "There are a lot of young people who are unemployed and on benefit. If you are working class and unemployed, you are very hard up."

Tempus, page 18

## Abbey sells unclaimed shares

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

ABBEY National sold 28.9 million shares yesterday that had remained unclaimed since the bank converted from a building society in 1989. It is to give £5 million of the proceeds to charity and pocket the other £98 million.

The shares were bought by Warburgs and Kleinwort Benson at 356p and then placed with institutions at 360p. When the Abbey floated in 1989, 5.6 million qualifying members were offered 100 free shares in the bank, but

despite a long series of letters inviting them to apply, several hundred thousand never got round to it, and under the terms of the conversion the bank was allowed to sell the shares.

The 295,000 or so members who have not claimed can still do so at any time over the next six years. In the summer Abbey sent letters to 390,000 people it thought was eligible, and placed advertisements in newspapers. Since then 165,000 have made claims

and 95,000 have received 100 shares, plus net dividends. A few are still being verified. Those who now make a claim will receive £356 plus dividends, net of tax.

Abbey National Charitable Trust will use the £5 million to make donations to a range of charities, including those for the homeless and giving debt advice.

The bank now has to decide how the £98 million will appear on its profit and loss account.

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# Barclays plans for £200m provision over Imry exposure

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS is planning to make a £200 million provision against its lending to Imry, the troubled private property group, one of the largest bad debt provisions in history.

The bank is expected to reveal the provision in a special Stock Exchange announcement before Christmas. It has a £440 million exposure to Imry and is working closely with the company to ensure it stays afloat.

The City has been concerned about the size of Barclays' exposure to Imry for several months and the bank wants to make an announcement to remove fears that the provision will be even larger. A spokesman for the bank

Barclays, Britain's biggest bank, will be obliged to make record provisions of more than £2 billion against bad debts this year and may be forced to cut its dividend

said reports of the provision and the forthcoming announcement were speculative and refused to comment on them. In 1990, however, the bank made a similar statement after the collapse of British & Commonwealth, the financial services group, when it made a £98 million provision.

The Imry provision will be the largest single element in record bad debt figures. Analysts expect the bank to make provisions of more than £2 billion on its lending. These,

they forecast, could plunge the bank into losses of up to £100 million and force it to cut its dividend.

Reports of the provision against the Imry loans appear in the latest issue of *European Banker*, along with an exclusive interview of Sir John Quinton, the outgoing chairman of Barclays.

In the interview, he admits there was a breakdown in communication between the bank's head office and its regions in the late eighties. That led to a boom in commercial property loans even though the bank tried to impose a cap on the lending as early as 1988.

Sir John said: "We said that property lending had reached a certain point and that is where it has got to stop... but in practice, there was a good deal of property lending done within that cap." The bank's property loan book grew from £2.1 billion at the end of 1987 to £5.4 billion in 1991.

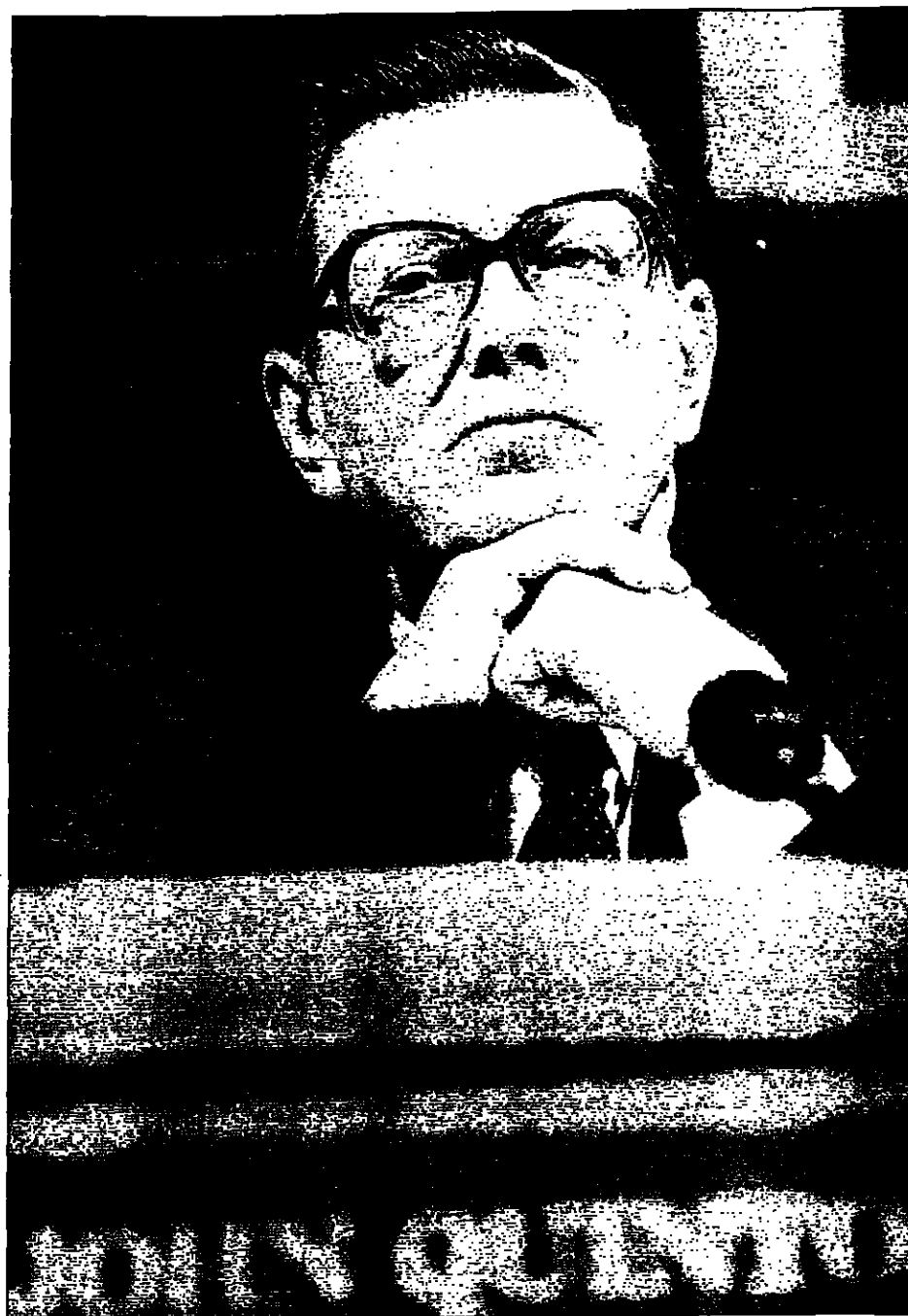
"We have been caught out by a number of lendings that were made in the 1988-9 era which, with hindsight, we should not have made. I think we could have been sterner in those days," he added.

Sir John said the bank had tried to improve internal communication but that lending policy was hampered by strong autonomy in the regions and local branches.

Sir John said the bank was trying to "pick itself up and dust itself off" after the recession, and that one of his chief regrets was that he did not forecast the recession. But he claims he would have needed a great deal of foresight to see it coming.

Sir John stepped down as chief executive last summer and plans to retire as chairman at the end of the year. In the interview, he suggests he was disappointed that the board did not have a wider choice of possible successors.

Andrew Buxton, his replacement, is a member of one of the bank's founding families, but Sir John said he doubted that Mr Buxton's successor would also come from a bank family. He also suggested that Barclays would begin to look outside the bank for a new chairman if there are no suitable internal candidates.



Looking back: Sir John Quinton thinks bank should have been sterner on lending

## KIO's Spanish group goes into voluntary liquidation

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

MAHMOUD Al Nouri, the new president of the Kuwait Investment Office in London, announced yesterday in Madrid the suspension of payments, or voluntary liquidation, of the KIO's troubled Torras group, in Spain.

Torras, which employs 30,000 people, owes 100 billion pesetas (£568 million), mostly to the KIO.

Jose Maria Stampa Braun, a law firm, is preparing legal action on behalf of the KIO against Javier de la Rosa, 45, who was the KIO's agent in Spain until he resigned this summer. Several prominent Kuwaitis, some believed to be members of the royal family, are also cited for alleged irregularities discovered by new KIO directors in connection with the management of Torras.

Señor de la Rosa built up the group by acquiring Torras, Spain's most important paper pulp manufacturer, Ebro, its biggest sugar and rice producer, Erros, the biggest chemicals and fertilizer company and Prima, a large property company.

The KIO appointed Señor de la Rosa, then an unproven banker, in 1984 and has since invested about Pta 500 billion in Spain, some 5 per cent of its worldwide petrodollar investments.

Torras appeared to prosper but it has since been alleged that Señor de la Rosa and his Kuwaiti partners bought illiquid companies and then publicised massive expansion plans for them. It is also

alleged that they sold the shares at inflated prices and made huge profits offshore.

Last year, Señor de la Rosa claimed that the group had sales of Pta 250 billion and assets of Pta 700 billion, and declared a Pta 2.8 billion profit for 1991. An audit turned this into a Pta 37 billion loss and the true figure could be even worse.

When the Kuwaiti government decided to cash in its investments to pay for rebuilding the country after the Gulf war, the new directors discovered the alleged improprieties in Spain.

Last month, Salomon Brothers, the American investment bank, told the KIO that it was not legally obliged to keep Torras going.

control costs. It is a question of good housekeeping and efficiency."

APV said there would be "a small number" of opportunities for redeployment within the group for the 233 staff. The company has sites at Crawley, Dartford, Eastbourne, Grimsby, Leeds, Newcastle upon Tyne, Peterborough, Stoke-on-Trent, and East Kilbride.

Niney jobs, including 70 redundancies, are also to go at Paxman Diesels in Colchester, Essex, over the next three months.

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## Job losses grow by another 1,100

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE loss of another 1,100 jobs yesterday took to 20,820 the number of people to be told this week that their jobs will go. That included 16,200 at the Post Office, 1,300 at Royal Ordnance, 200 at Lloyd's of London, and 900 with the closure of the Cammell Laird shipyard.

More gloomy news is expected next week, with Ford poised to announce 3,000 job cuts. Britain's fourth largest building society, Alliance & Leicester, revealed plans to axe 400 jobs over the next one to two years. They will be shed at its two administrative centres, at Oadby, near Leicester, and at Hove, East Sussex. APV, which makes food and drink

processing equipment, is to close its Rochester plant with the loss of more than 200 jobs and Blockleys, the brick maker, is to shed 40 staff after a decision to cut production levels.

The building society shed 85 jobs at the two centres in March, and more losses are expected once the society has finished a review of staffing numbers in its branch network next year. Alliance & Leicester said it hopes to achieve the reductions through voluntary redundancy, natural wastage and cutting back temporary and casual posts. It said it does not plan to close branches. Peter White, group chief executive, said: "I greatly regret having to take this step but, like other financial organisations it is essential for us to closely

control costs. It is a question of good housekeeping and efficiency."

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## John Menzies to close Early Learning in US

SHARES in John Menzies, the Edinburgh newspaper retailer and wholesaler, jumped 13p to 459p on news that the company had abandoned plans to sell its troubled Early Learning Centres operation in America and instead decided to close it down.

The group wrote off £15.2 million in 1990 for restructuring the business, seen in the City as an unwise diversification, and took a further £7 million provision earlier this year. Menzies said talks with potential buyers had not been successful, and all viable options had been exhausted. The closure of the American operation, at a cost that would be fully covered by existing provisions, would come immediately after the Christmas trading period. Kinnlan Cook, retail analyst at County NatWest, said the share price rise in thin trading was the result of the markets' "welcome relief" that the situation had been resolved.

## BA meets over Qantas

THE board of British Airways met yesterday to consider the purchase of a large minority stake in Qantas, the state-owned Australian airline, which the Australian government has earmarked for privatisation. A spokesman for BA said that no decision was reached, but that the company will make up its mind by Wednesday, the deadline set by the Australian government. BA is among three companies to have expressed an interest, the others being Singapore Airlines and Air New Zealand. Earlier this week, Roger Maynard, BA's director of corporate strategy, said that BA would put together a consortium of companies to bid for a 49 per cent stake.

## Receivers called in

GUY Warwick, a Nottinghamshire-based supplier of trousers to high street chains including C&A and Top Shop, has been placed in receivership. Touche Ross is urgently seeking a buyer for the company, that blames its financial difficulties on a sudden fall in post-Christmas orders. The town of Bilthorpe, home to nearly half the 242 jobs threatened by the closure, is the site of one of the coal pits earmarked for possible closure by British Coal, and many of the miners' wives are employed by Guy Warwick. There are fears that any subsequent pit closure could result in virtual 100 per cent unemployment in the town.

## Nu-Swift passes payout

NU-SWIFT, the fire protection, office cleaning and property group, has passed its interim dividend (10p) after pre-tax profits fell from £11.3 million to £2.5 million in the six months to end-June. Operating profits nearly doubled to £11.2 million (£6 million) but property and exchange losses, with a leap in interest charges, dragged down the results. An interest in London Securities has been written off, resulting in a loss of £2.7 million. Nu-Swift paid out £4.2 million in interest (£5.7 million receipts) and exchange losses on foreign currencies were £1.2 million. Earnings per share were 5.09p (17.04p).

## Opec output 'easing'

THE Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has appeared to ease the rise in output that has been blamed for the fall in oil prices, says the International Energy Agency. The IEA also upheld its forecast of strong demand for Opec oil and industry stocks in the crucial January-March quarter. The latest IEA monthly report revised down its estimate of Opec output for October by 100,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 25.2 million bpd and said output seemed to stabilise at that level in November. The IEA narrowly upgraded its forecast of likely demand for crude from Opec and oil company stocks in the winter quarter by 200,000 bpd to 26.8 million bpd.

## Cutback clips Dobson

STEPS to cut more than 400 jobs at Dobson Park Industries, the industrial electronics and mining equipment group, left it nursing pre-tax profits of £10.3 million (£13.1 million) in the 53 weeks to October 3. The number of employees fell from 4,043 to 3,615 over the course of the year, resulting in reorganisation costs of £2.8 million (£2.5 million). Alan Kaye, chairman, said: "The difficult trading conditions experienced by all divisions intensified during the year as other European economies moved into recession. Earnings were 5.52p (7.05p) a share. A maintained 3.85p still leaves the total dividend at 5.75p. The shares eased 4p to 58p.

## VTech falls at half time

VTECH Holdings, the electronics, computers and telecommunications group that is based in Hong Kong and came to the market in October, saw pre-tax profits fall to US\$11.2 million (US\$20.6 million) in the six months to end-September. Turnover advanced to US\$294.5 million (US\$286.2 million). Earnings decreased to 5.1 cents (12.2 cents) a share. There is a 1 cent (3 cents) interim dividend. Price protection claims in the American personal computer market resulted in operating losses. Outside America, personal computer sales rose 56 per cent. Sales of satellite television receivers to Germany fell 20 per cent.

## Coal contracts 'should not prejudice' review

By PATRICIA TEHAN

MICHAEL Heseltine, trade secretary, issued a veiled warning to the electricity industry yesterday, urging the generators and distribution companies to make sure their coal contracts "do not prejudice" the outcome of the government's review of the coal industry.

In reply to a parliamentary question on the coal contract negotiations from Matthew Carrington, Conservative MP for Fulham, Mr Heseltine said he had written to Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, the two electricity generators and the 12 supply companies in England and Wales, to make this clear.

The government's review is investigating the case for the planned closure of 21 pits and prospects for Britain's coal industry.

In the letter to Mr Clarke, Mr Heseltine stated that given



Heseltine: letter to Clarke

deep concern about the outcome of the review, he hoped negotiations between British Coal and the electricity industry would lead to agreed arrangements that would "ensure a sound and stable basis for the British coal industry and the electricity supply industry to plan their business at least for 1993-4".

## TEMPUS

## Flat outlook at Wolves & Dudley

DAVID Thompson at Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries was in unusually upbeat mood yesterday. Not normally short of ideas on how the brewing industry should arrange its affairs, Mr Thompson was forced to admit that the purchase of Camerons, a year ago, the company's biggest corporate move, had not been as successful as hoped.

Camerons, bought from Brent Walker for a remarkably cheap £20.5 million, will come good in the end but is still running on trading margins of just 2.4 per cent, and the expected dilution of Wolves & Dudley's earnings in 1991-2 will now extend into the present year. In the year to end-September, the group pushed taxable pre-property profits up from £52.7 million to £54.6 million, but the £1.9 million difference equalled income from acquisitions, primarily Camerons, added to the non-repeating exceptional cost.

Wolves & Dudley's problems, despite its excellent management, are largely demographic and centre on its position in the Midlands

market, where it is hindered by a clutch of 60 or 70 pubs on sink housing estates, less than 10 per cent of the total pubs owned, which are exceptionally vulnerable to the recession.

The market was kept sweet by an unexpected 10.7 per cent rise in total dividends, although this slimmer cover from 3.5 to 3.3 times, and pushed up the shares by 9p to 535p. Pre-tax profits this year will have to motor to exceed £37 million, putting the shares on a multiple of about 13.5p. The shares have tumbled from their high of 653p in May as doubts over Camerons have grown but they cannot be expected to outperform in the near term.

Evode

THE cat and mouse takeover game between Wassall and Evode Group is now well under way. Wassall's 80p a share cash offer is formally on the table. Evode's defence document and audited preliminary figures for the year ended October 3 have just been



Simon: battling well

served. Evode's 1992 pre-tax profits progression in the 53 weeks ended October 3 — from £7.3 million to £10.2 million — and the advance at the operating level in profits from continuing operations from £11.8 million to £14.3 million, suggest Evode is battling well against the recession that has hit both sides of the Atlantic. Net borrowings have been cut from £46.1 million to £28.5 million, and on

Evode's definition (the dollar preference issue is included as equity), gearing has been clipped from 78 per cent to 50 per cent. Excluding the preference capital, gearing is about 200 per cent, of which Wassall will make much play.

The final dividend is held at 1.8p a share, making an unchanged 3.58p, though this is not covered by reported basic earnings of 3.2p a share.

The thrust of Evode's defence is that shareholders should not, for a mere 80p, surrender at this point the opportunity of the rewards that are coming their way as their group makes further progress.

Pre-tax profits this year could edge up to £12.5 million, analysts suggest.

On present evidence from Evode, run by Andrew Simon, and with its share price at 91p, there is no reason to accept 80p from Wassall. Should Wassall come back with a higher offer, then Evode shareholders will have to think again. Meanwhile, Evode shareholders should sit tight.

## BRITISH FUNDS

GOVERNMENT securities had a quieter day, with most stocks ending little changed, after Wednesday's auction and Thursday's hectic follow-up. "It's been a quiet end to a fairly frenetic week in the gilt market," Simon Thorp, head of gilt trading at County NatWest, said.

Stocks opened higher on the back of sterling's renewed strength, but prices fell back

towards their opening levels after sterling slipped back. American economic statistics failed to provide any stimulus. The domestic market did not find any encouragement from Europe as German and French bond markets dipped.

The gilt future ended two ticks firmer at £991/32, as volume for March reached 23,000 contracts. Cash stocks saw good two-

way business and some profit taking, with shorts ending a few ticks higher while longs finished with losses of a few ticks. Dealers expect shorts to continue to do well on the back of anticipated rate cuts in Europe. Exchange rates in French bond markets dipped.

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| 1992 | Low | Stock | Price | 1m  | 5m  | 10m |
|------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 100  | 99  | 100   | 99    | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| 101  | 100 | 101   | 100   | 101 | 101 | 101 |
| 102  | 101 | 102   | 101   | 102 | 102 | 102 |
| 103  | 102 | 103   | 102   | 103 | 103 | 103 |
| 104  | 103 | 104   | 103   | 104 | 104 | 104 |
| 105  | 104 | 105   | 104   | 105 | 105 | 105 |
| 106  | 105 | 106   | 105   | 106 | 106 | 106 |
| 107  | 106 | 107   | 106   | 107 | 107 | 107 |
| 108  | 107 | 108   | 107   | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| 109  | 108 | 109   | 108   | 109 | 109 | 109 |
| 110  | 109 | 110   | 109   | 110 | 110 | 110 |
| 111  | 110 | 111   | 110   | 111 | 111 | 111 |
| 112  | 111 | 112   | 111   | 112 | 112 | 112 |
| 113  | 112 | 113   | 112   | 113 | 113 | 113 |
| 114  | 113 | 114   | 113   | 114 | 114 | 114 |
| 115  | 114 | 115   | 114   | 115 | 115 | 115 |
| 116  | 115 | 116   | 115   | 116 | 116 | 116 |
| 117  | 116 | 117   | 116   | 117 | 117 | 117 |
| 118  | 117 | 118   | 117   | 118 | 118 | 118 |
| 119  | 118 | 119   | 118   | 119 | 119 | 119 |
| 120  | 119 | 120   | 119   | 120 | 120 | 120 |
| 121  | 120 | 121   | 120   | 121 | 121 | 121 |
| 122  | 121 | 122   | 121   | 122 | 122 | 122 |
| 123  | 122 | 123   | 122   | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| 124  | 123 | 124   | 123   | 124 | 124 | 124 |
| 125  | 124 | 125   | 124   | 125 | 125 | 125 |
| 126  | 125 | 126   | 125   | 126 | 126 | 126 |
| 127  | 126 | 127   | 126   | 127 | 127 | 127 |
| 128  | 127 | 128   | 127   | 128 | 128 | 128 |
| 129  | 128 | 129   | 128   | 129 | 129 | 129 |
| 130  | 129 | 130   | 129   | 130 | 130 | 130 |
| 131  | 130 | 131   | 130   | 131 | 131 | 131 |
| 132  | 131 | 132   | 131   | 132 | 132 | 132 |
| 133  | 132 | 133   | 132   | 133 | 133 | 133 |
| 134  | 133 | 134   | 133   | 134 | 134 | 134 |
| 135  | 134 | 135   | 134   | 135 | 135 | 135 |
| 136  | 135 | 136   | 135   | 136 | 136 | 136 |
| 137  | 136 | 137   | 136   | 137 | 137 | 137 |
| 138  | 137 | 138   | 137   | 138 | 138 | 138 |
| 139  | 138 | 139   | 138   | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| 140  | 139 | 140   | 139   | 140 | 140 | 140 |
| 141  | 140 | 141   | 140   | 141 | 141 | 141 |
| 142  | 141 | 142   | 141   | 142 | 142 | 142 |
| 143  | 142 | 143   | 142   | 143 | 143 | 143 |
| 144  | 143 | 144   | 143   | 144 | 144 | 144 |
| 145  | 144 | 145   | 144   | 145 | 145 | 145 |
| 146  | 145 | 146   | 145   | 146 | 146 | 146 |
| 147  | 146 | 147   | 146   | 147 | 147 | 147 |
| 148  | 147 | 148   | 147   | 148 | 148 | 148 |
| 149  | 148 | 149   | 148   | 149 | 149 | 149 |
| 150  | 149 | 150   | 149   | 150 | 150 | 150 |

| +   | 1m<br>yield | Grs<br>red<br>yield | 1992 |      | St |
|-----|-------------|---------------------|------|------|----|
|     |             |                     | High | Low  |    |
| ... | 111%        | 98%                 | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 113%        | 100%                | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 60%         | 99%                 | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 62%         | 63%                 | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 8.02        | 6.65                | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 9.89        | 6.66                | 120% | 100% |    |
| ... | 12.10       | 6.64                | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 12.10       | 6.33                | 128% | 116% |    |
| ... | 6.33        | 6.61                |      |      |    |
| ... | 6.65        | 6.79                |      |      |    |
| ... | 9.56        | 6.70                |      |      |    |
| ... | 9.56        | 6.86                | 97%  | 85%  |    |
| ... | 12.41       | 6.71                | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 12.38       | 6.62                | 128% | 116% |    |
| ... | 3.17        | 5.51                | 100% | 99%  |    |
| ... | 9.52        | 7.03                | 95%  | 85%  |    |
| ... | 10.10       | 7.03                | 103% | 93%  |    |
| ... | 11.11       | 7.00                | 103% | 93%  |    |
| ... | 8.97        | 6.85                | 72%  | 66%  |    |
| ... | 9.18        | 7.32                | 100% | 91%  |    |
| ... | 11.30       | 7.47                | 100% | 116% |    |
| ... | 11.30       | 7.40                |      |      |    |
| ... | 12.80       | 7.47                |      |      |    |
| ... | 9.46        | 7.45                | 29%  | 24%  |    |
| ... | 11.05       | 7.52                | 29   | 24%  |    |



## BUSINESS PROFILE: Tom Peters

## Millionaire marketing guru who reigns supreme

Carol Leonard finds that America's highly paid business observer is an unexpectedly modest man

The Tom Peters roadshow was in town. It arrives in London once every three or four months, so that the American marketing guru, as he is traditionally styled, can give lucrative lectures — charging \$55,000 an hour — or promote his latest book.

On this occasion, Peters has crossed the Atlantic with the latter aim in mind. His coterie of public relations advisers have been masquerading the British launch of his new tome, *Liberation Management: Necessary Disorganisation for the Nineties*.

Peters co-operates with them fully. He knows only too well from whence his next dollar comes. This, after all, is his third major literary work. The first, *In Search of Excellence*, published almost ten years ago, has gone down in history as the biggest selling management title ever. It turned Peters into a millionaire from royalties alone.

The second, which hit the bookshops in 1989, was entitled *Thriving on Chaos*, and contradicted much of what had gone before. As his critics were quick to point out, the second book was necessary because so many of the companies cited in the first book as "examples of excellence" had since fallen by the wayside. "Flexibility," according to Peters, was now the key management word.

Those same critics remain silent, however, when it comes to examining the management or rather marketing — of Tom Peters himself. Even they are forced to admit that it is excellence in action. The Eighties have come and gone, the Nineties are well under way, and still Peters reigns supreme.

Newspaper reports abound of his style in the lecture hall. Of the way he roams around the audience wearing a tweed jacket rather than a suit, speaking without notes for an entire day. Of the fees he is able to charge, averaging about £700 a head, with companies such as British Gas, Royal Mail, IBM, ICI and Shell happy to pay such sums so that their executives can hear first-hand what Peters has to say. As

with anything that appears to be so effortless, however, the preparations behind the scenes are exacting. His arrival in London to promote *Liberation Management* was, for example, heralded about six weeks before, with public relations assistants offering half-hour interview slots to every relevant journalist.

A request from *The Times* for a full hour was greeted with a gasp down the telephone line, hurried consultation and then, with ill-disguised reluctance, agreement. The suites of rooms in the Park Lane Hotel had been booked, one as a service station for attendant flunkies, from which to ply Peters and his successive visitors with refreshments, and another in which the interviews could be conducted. Notice boards erected in the hotel corridor, announcing his presence, would be enough to send any more ordinary hotel guest, who mistakenly found his

**'I hate talking money. Someone in my office negotiates. It's an absurd number'**

way on to the fourth floor, scuttling back into the lift. You begin to sense that here is an extraordinary mortal. Someone who needs to be cosseted and cared for like no other. Whose every utterance should be

written down and then analysed in case it contains a deeper meaning. It must be similar to the build-up given before a tabloid newspaper interview with, say, Billy Graham, Michael Jackson or Ivana Trump. This may be London's Piccadilly, but this is nevertheless the magnificent American marketing machine in full swing.

The door to the interview room is flung open and you brace yourself for that first encounter. There, carefully positioned in the middle of a sofa, with an armchair either

side, sits the unexpected figure of Peters. He is alone and looks entirely out of place. The tweed jacket is as described, but there are also scuffed, thick-soled, brown shoes, standard-issue grey flannel trousers and a tie. Peters says that the tie means that he has made an effort. "When in Rome, and all that..." At home, he lives in sweat-suits, in his office he wears a sweat shirt with denim jeans instead. Peters,



Fresh focus: Tom Peters agrees to let *The Times* take a new shot at presenting his image

who has just turned 50, clearly has no problem with his naturally scruffy, relaxed appearance. He agrees that, left to his own devices, he looks very different to the person depicted in the carefully styled publicity photograph which has been supplied on demand, without variation, for the past three years.

He is compliant, however, when asked to pose for a new shot. As *The Times* photographer positions him in an upright chair, with a copy of the newspaper in his hands, Peters remarks that he is happy to be photographed reading any page "except the stock price page — I only buy stock in one company, and that's my own." An extraordinary statement from a man who is so sought after to advise others on how to govern their corporate affairs. At

the heart of any company is, after all, its balance sheet, and the pulse rate can be critically influenced by the investments it does or does not make. So where, I ask, does Peters, a former McKinsey consultant, with an MBA from Stanford, invest his own money?

"Ninety per cent of it is in real estate," he says. He means in the two houses in which he lives. "I don't have any financial planning at all and stocks and shares have never interested me. I wouldn't even know how to go about it. After the first book was written, my wife and I bought a very nice house in California. Then we got turned on by Vermont. We bought 1,300 acres, but best that sound like an estate, a lot of it is straight up, on a mountain. When we tried to find

an area to play croquet we couldn't find enough land that was flat. I would like to think that my view of business is not that far removed from Anita Roddick's — that the essence of business is fun."

How then, does this unexpectedly modest man have the gall to charge such vast fees? "It's actually more like \$50,000 for a two-hour presentation," he begins. "It is obscene. Trust me, that is an obscene amount of money," Peters laughs. "But don't ask me why people pay it, ask the person who signs the cheque." He explains that he originally based his fee structure on the \$1,000 a day charged by McKinsey. "Then a wonderful thing happened to me. A woman came to work for us who had been a part-time saleswoman for Mary

Kay cosmetics, one of those high pressure sales organisations. I came back to the office one time and Betsy said I just got you \$10,000 for a speech. She said I was talking to these people and they were really keen to get you and they asked the price. She said \$12,000 and they said that's absurd and so she said \$10,000 and they said okay."

"There is a big industry in the US for talkers at organisational meetings and in that market there is a price. Norman Schwarzkopf was at the top of the market last year, getting \$75,000 a time. Kissinger was top of the league for a while, then Reagan and Ollie North. But I've been in the top ten for a long time — I've outlasted them all. I find it all thoroughly amusing but also totally embarrassing. I hate talking money. Someone in my office does all the negotiating. It's an absurd number, for Christ's sake." Apart from his home in northern California's silicon valley, and his working dairy farm in Vermont — with its cows, sheep, goats and lambs — Peters insists that his life-style has changed little. "I would be a fool to say that it hasn't changed at all, but I have avoided all the social crap which

could go along with it. I do not enjoy hanging out with people who wear suits, or the rich and famous. I would much rather spend an hour with Anita Roddick than with the CEO of a big company in the US." Peters grew up in "a typical American 1950s suburb" outside Baltimore, Maryland. An only child, he describes his father as "a typical employee of that era: 44 years with one company, the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. He was a credit and collections manager." His father was, he says, "very reticent" while his mother — now aged 83 — is, superficially at least, more like her son.

"Ninety-eight per cent of the traits that you might associate with me seem to be mother-oriented. In a 15-floor elevator ride she will make four friends. That's not a joke, it happens. But they were both readers. My most cherished Christmas presents were always books, historical novels." In keeping with that upbringing, his second wife, Kate, from whom he has inherited two step-children, is a poet and once ran a book shop in Palo Alto, California.

As a schoolboy he was, he says, "really unwretched, which I find a wretched phenomenon. I got good grades which I find disgusting. It feels very one-dimensional, but I do not think I was. I won some award for being more involved in extra-curricular activities than anyone else, but I was never a good athlete. All young American males want to be great jocks and I was not."

Since the age of nine, Peters had wanted to be an architect and he eventually went to a school of architecture. He left after a few months. "I realised that I had no chance of being the next Frank Lloyd Wright. I had no flair. I switched to engineering instead. I'm still irritated at myself because of it."

He fell into his present career "entirely by chance" and finally found an area where he did have flair. Although it is not true that he speaks entirely without notes — "I do have a prompt sheet" — he had always been a good talker. In debating contests in high school, marks were given for presentation and rebuttal. "I used to score reasonably well in presentation and automatically win in rebuttal."

Yet despite the bravado, and the polish and charm, Peters obviously exudes when he is performing, as he sits alone on his sofa there is an obvious internal area of reserve. An area where few people are allowed to go. He is not the brash, uninhibited exhibitionist his reputation might lead you to believe. "Yes, I am definitely a loner," he says. That feeling runs deep within him. "When I go to a social function or a party, even if it is with one or two friends, I start getting quivers several hours before. They are truly agony for me. Perhaps I am a borderline depressive. Give me any scenario and I will always see the worst side."

Peters admits to being fascinated by amateur psychology. He has used it to his advantage and on himself. I asked him how such a person could stand up in front of hundreds of complete strangers and repeatedly deliver such extraordinary performances that his customers keep coming back for more. "It has been said by wiser heads than mine that large numbers of people who spend their professional lives on a stage and in the theatre are phenomenally shy and use the public expression of theatre as their outlet. My mother was genuinely gregarious. I am phenomenally shy."

**'I would be a fool to say my life-style hasn't changed, but I have avoided the social crap'**

Matthew Bond

## Raise your glasses, Norman has seen little green shoots again

RICHARD WILLSON

Prepare to be overjoyed. I have the most wonderful news for each and every one of you. Our troubles are over. The dark days behind us. Recovery is, at last, on its way.

Yes, yes, it's official. Rush with impunity to your local Threshers and lay in the fizzes. Happy days are here again.

What's that? How do I know? Well that's easy. I got a phone call from you-know-who. Well, to be strictly accurate, I had two calls, but the first was from some double-barrelled law firm wanting to reverse the charges and we have an in-house rule about not accepting those. But the second was from the man himself — Norman Lamont, in person. To say the Chancellor was on form is an understatement. He was effervescent.

"Matthew me old mucker," he bellowed, if I read my somewhat rusty shorthand correctly. "I've found them." "Calm down, calm down," I replied as the gabbles continued. "Start at the beginning and tell me the whole story. He did, eventually, and the gist of what a still excited Mr Lamont had to say I will now relate. Well...

You remember those green shoots of recovery? How can we forget them. I hear you say, those mythical metaphors best known for their indefinite (infinite?) inappropriateness. Well, not so fast. The Chancellor has found them! Seems they were never missing at all — just mislaid.

They turned up, as we all know things do, while he was engaged in what sounds like a pretty frantic search for something else. Not one corner of his many residences was left unrummaged through. Whether he found what he was originally looking for, Mr Lamont was a little vague about, but there was no hiding his joy at finally putting his hands on those little old green shoots that even he was beginning to think lost forever. But there they were — tucked in the top pocket of a long-forgotten



sports jacket. "Honestly Matthew, I could have kicked myself," he finished. With supreme restraint, I said nothing about the several million volunteers who would be happy to save him the effort.

"How many of these shoots are there?" I asked. "Oh, a good handful," he enthused. "A very good handful."

Politely, I enquired for more details. "Well, the best looking one is M0, which is growing like there's no tomorrow." (Advanced readers can award themselves an extra mark for knowing that for coincident indicators like M0, there is no tomorrow.)

Quick as a flash, I interrupted. "Hang on, Norman. Five Green Shoots with One Called M0. Get me Lloyd Webber. I feel a musical coming on." "Oh do shut up, you fool. I'm telling you about M0. You know, the coins and folding notes in your pocket." "And credit card slips in your jack-

et?" I enquired. "No," he snapped. "And stop interrupting. Now M0 — it grew by 0.8 per cent in November, which means 3 per cent in the last year. Now where does that leave your recession, eh?"

Available from every Post Office, I thought silently. "But doesn't the fact that in the last three months, M0's been growing at almost twice the official target range mean you will have to raise interest rates soon?"

"I've warned you about interrupting before. Now where was I? Ah yes — retail sales and inland telephone calls. Both rising very encouragingly you know."

Must be all those credit card calls, I thought, before quietly suggesting another possibility. "People phoning their Jobcentres?" There was a pause. I sensed growing hostility at the other end of the telephone. A ges-

ture of conciliation was needed. "A trend which the freezing of the cost of inland calls can only help!" It worked. "Quite, quite."

The Chancellor returned to his theme. "Then, of course, there is the impact of lower interest rates beginning to come through, the lack of which was one of the main reasons I mislaid the green shoots in the first place. What a difference a year and no more Helmut Schlesinger makes. House prices have already turned the corner."

"That's the 0.1 per cent rise in the Halifax house price index in November you're referring to? What about the 2 per cent fall that the Nationwide index shows?"

"Even Chancellors need a little 'Xtra help,'" he bubbled. "But it is not just the housing market that is moving the right way. The stock market's just hit a new all-time high: the pound is positively resurgent against the dollar and mark and Germany looks smack on course for recession. The markets are never wrong, you know. They weren't wrong in September and they're not wrong now."

If Chancellors could skip while on the telephone, Mr Lamont would have done so.

"So who was wrong in September?" I asked, only to be answered by a tumultuous chorus of *Everything's Coming Up Roses*.

I persisted. "And what about all these job losses — 85,000 since September, almost 20,000 this week alone. Whatever happened to the Going for Growth plan?"

The roses stopped coming up. "Going for Growth? Damn, when was that?" The sound of desperate hands being slapped on empty pockets could be heard down the telephone line. "Was that October? Which suit was I wearing? Or were we in the country? My gardening trousers, perhaps? Or my dinner jacket? Please God not my white tie..."

Cancel that Champagne. Cheap claret should suffice for now.

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| 08.30 | 10.35 |
| 11.15 | 13.15 |
| 12.50 | 14.55 |
| 17.00 | 19.05 |
| 18.50 | 20.50 |
| 20.30 | 22.30 |

SAT SUN

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
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|-------|-------|
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| 07.50 | 07.55 |
| 10.30 | 10.35 |
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| 16.15 | 16.15 |
| 18.00 | 18.00 |
| 19.45 | 19.45 |

SAT SUN

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| 07.50 | 07.55 |
| 12.00 | 12.05 |
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| 19.45 | 19.45 |
| 20.30 | 20.30 |

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## Blue chips firm in early trading

bright economic and corporate news. A sharp 5.1 per cent fall in west German industrial orders in October added to the gloom, dealers reported. The Dax slipped 10.34 points to 1,522.16 close, after hitting a

| Dec 4  |        | Dec 5  |       | Dec 4  |        | Dec 5  |       |
|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| midday | close  | midday | close | midday | close  | midday | close |
| 52 1/2 | 53 1/4 |        |       | 22 1/2 | 22 3/4 |        |       |
| 36 1/2 | 36 3/4 |        |       | 20 1/2 | 20 3/4 |        |       |
| 48 1/2 | 48 3/4 |        |       | 50 1/2 | 50 3/4 |        |       |
| 31 1/4 | 31 3/4 |        |       | 64     | 64 1/4 |        |       |
| 30     | 29 3/4 |        |       | 57 1/2 | 57 3/4 |        |       |
| 99 1/2 | 98 3/4 |        |       | 19 1/2 | 19 3/4 |        |       |
| 48 1/2 | 48 3/4 |        |       | 20 1/2 | 20 3/4 |        |       |
| 31 1/4 | 31 3/4 |        |       | 31 1/2 | 31 3/4 |        |       |
| 53 1/2 | 53 3/4 |        |       | 43 1/2 | 43 3/4 |        |       |
| 72 1/2 | 72 3/4 |        |       | 26 1/2 | 26 3/4 |        |       |
| 35 1/2 | 35 3/4 |        |       | 50 1/2 | 50 3/4 |        |       |
| 30 1/2 | 30 3/4 |        |       | 43 1/2 | 43 3/4 |        |       |
| 4 1/2  | 4 3/4  |        |       | 27 1/2 | 27 3/4 |        |       |
| 31 1/4 | 31 3/4 |        |       | 77 1/2 | 77 3/4 |        |       |
| 42 1/2 | 42 3/4 |        |       | 43 1/2 | 43 3/4 |        |       |
| 42 1/2 | 42 3/4 |        |       | 41 1/2 | 41 3/4 |        |       |
| 53 1/2 | 53 3/4 |        |       | 76 1/2 | 76 3/4 |        |       |
| 51 1/2 | 51 3/4 |        |       | 47 1/2 | 47 3/4 |        |       |

the company issued a statement to the Stock Exchange saying that it was not aware of any reason for the fall.

Melville Group was a late casualty, sliding from an overnight level of 11p to just 6p after it revealed a slump in profits and passed its dividend.

**PHILIP BANGALOS**

|                           |         |        |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| BTR Warrants 1997         | 113 1/2 | -4     |
| Critchley Group (220)     | 237     | +1 1/2 |
| Foreign & Col FEP Inv Tst | 102     | ...    |
| Jos Holdings Capital      | 33      | +1     |
| Jos Holdings Income       | 89      | +1     |
| Jos Zero Div PT           | 109     | + 1/2  |
| Second Consolidated TSI   | 99      | ...    |
| Tepnel Diagnostics (120)  | 194     | ...    |
| Wetherspoon (LD) (160)    | 175     | ...    |

**RIGHTS ISSUES**

[illegible]

|      |      |                 |     |     |
|------|------|-----------------|-----|-----|
| 59%  | 59%  | Unisys Corp     | 10% | 10% |
| 59%  | 59%  | USAIR Group     | 10% | 10% |
| 59%  | 59%  | USAA Corp       | 15% | 15% |
| 104% | 104% | US Air          | 15% | 15% |
| 12%  | 13%  | US West         | 37% | 37% |
| 13%  | 12%  | United Tech     | 44% | 44% |
| 29%  | 29%  | Unisys Corp     | 22% | 22% |
| 3%   | 3%   | United Tech     | 3%  | 3%  |
| 2%   | 2%   | VF Corp         | 6%  | 6%  |
| 2%   | 2%   | Wal-Mart Stores | 59% | 59% |
| 3%   | 3%   | Werner-Lambert  | 6%  | 6%  |
| 19%  | 19%  | Weyerhaeuser    | 40% | 40% |
| 5%   | 5%   | Westinghouse    | 13% | 13% |
| 5%   | 5%   | Westinghouse B  | 13% | 13% |
| 3%   | 3%   | Weyerhaeuser    | 3%  | 3%  |
| 63%  | 63%  | Whitcomb        | 43% | 43% |
| 4%   | 4%   | Whitman         | 14% | 14% |
| 4%   | 4%   | Whitman         | 14% | 14% |
| 8%   | 8%   | Woodward        | 32% | 32% |
| 17%  | 17%  | Wrigley (Wm) Jr | 37% | 37% |

100

[illegible]

# Saying t



## Banks drag feet on complaints

The collective financial ombudsmen are doing a great job when their paymasters let them. This week, it was the turn of the banking ombudsman to report a 60 per cent increase in complaints. It could have been more if the banks did not, at the end of their complaints procedures, drag their feet in issuing deadlock letters that are necessary for customers to take their cases to the ombudsman.

Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, has implemented a pilot scheme to try to speed complaints to his office. He argues that it is in banks' interest to get them resolved quickly. Too often, complaints linger in branch or regional offices, as staff do not want head office to learn how many unhappy customers they have.

In many cases, the account holder's grievance is ill-founded and the ombudsman's office says much the same as the bank; but it is believed as an independent voice. It might also put the matter differently. Too often, staff tell customers "we have always done it this way", or even "we have

had lots of complaints about this", without explaining that the terms and conditions of the account are binding and common to all banks.

The banks are not alone in delaying tactics. *Weekend Money* hears from many exasperated customers of insurance companies whose first letters to head office receive replies from assistant general managers but who find that subsequent correspondence comes from more junior members of staff. They therefore get further and further from the deadlock letters that enable their cases to be heard by the insurance ombudsman.

Many cases are ruled to be outside the ombudsmen's jurisdiction. The largest number of banking complaints concerned interest and charges, but few of these cases received a full examination, because it is up to the banks to take commercial decisions on the rates



LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

they charge or pay, provided they do not change the terms and conditions of an account too radically without proper notice.

Of the cases that the ombudsmen examine fully, a third on average result in compensation. Financial institutions should be thankful that there are professional offices to deal with their disenchanted customers, whose cases would clog up much executive time.

The fact that more and more customers are becoming aware of the ombudsmen's existence is good news. It gives them confidence that if

### COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

anything serious should go wrong, there is a way of resolving it without resorting to the courts.

### Buyers beware

A lesson was learnt this week by investors in the Birmingham Capital Trust that should be noted by all other savers. Guarantees are only as good as the company or organisation making them.

The small private bank has written to savers who put money into its fixed-rate, tax-exempt special sav-

ings account, expecting to get 12 per cent gross for five years, that the account is to be closed at the end of the year after discussions with the Bank of England. They will have to transfer to another Tessa with a lower rate of interest. If they do not do so, they will lose the tax benefits of the account as well.

The Birmingham bank blamed the economic climate, which has resulted in an erosion of its capital base. Those who put their money with the bank were not greedy because they opted for a 12 per cent guarantee, variable rate accounts were offering more than 15 per cent when they were launched at the beginning of last year, plus the chance of final bonuses.

The Birmingham case is a timely reminder, for the market is awash with guaranteed products of all descriptions, whether they be business expansion schemes with guaranteed

exits, or bonds investing in equities guaranteeing that, whatever happens in the market, capital is secure.

Investors should check the status of anyone offering an investment guarantee just as they would a firm guaranteeing damp-proofing work. If the company fails, so does the guarantee in most cases. Or if companies' market hopes are not realised, they can go back on their word.

Those who look first to tax-efficiency when investing can also come unstuck, as Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society's current debacle over unwise investment in property demonstrates. Some 40,000 investors were told, when they invested in its capital secure fund, that property was excluded from the portfolio of the tax-free investment.

Now they find that the friendly society did invest in property and has made substantial losses. Who will pay remains to be seen but it is only a question of whether the grievance is spread across all the society's investors or only those in the fund.

## Christmas clampdown on credit card fraud

BY LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

CREDIT card fraudsters were given notice this week that the pickings will not be so easy this Christmas. Barclaycard has stepped up its efforts to defeat the fraudulent use of cards and by the end of the year will have given away about £4 million in tax-free bonuses to sales staff who retain stolen or wildly overspent cards.

This month, the credit card's fraud referral unit expects to be responsible for 300 arrests and recover more than 2,500 stolen cards. This will be a small proportion of the 2,000 cards expected to be lost or stolen every day during the run up to Christmas. On average one in ten of the cards is used fraudulently.

Barclaycard expects its fraud bill to be reduced this year from last year's £36 million total. This is largely due to a reduction in the limits over which sales assistants have to telephone Barclaycard for authorisation or an electronic authorisation is given by the card being swiped through a machine. On the last Saturday before Christmas, the credit card company expects to give 100,000 telephone authorisations and 700,000 electronic ones.

This should detect stolen or missing cards already reported, if the thief goes on a spree. The company's Fraudwatch computer system often finds out when cards are stolen before the customer realises they are missing. The system analyses spending patterns and when a card begins to be used in an unusual way one of the Fraudwatch team telephones the cardholder to check that he or she is making the purchases. About 30,000 customers have been contacted since the system went national last year and more than 2,000 have found that their cards were missing.

Barry Fergus, project director, fraud control, said: "Most cardholders are much trouble. We have only had one that complained saying that it was an infringement of their liberties."

The system has to be modified a little at Christmas because everyone's spending pattern changes. Credit card purchases of wine and spirits increases by 50 per cent, while sales of jewellery double and petrol is reduced.

When a card, listed as stolen, seeks authorisation the



Card watch: staff at the Barclaycard centre in Wavertree, Liverpool, track purchases

sales assistant is asked to retain the card and on some occasions to engage the customer in conversation to give the police time to arrive.

The reward for a stolen card is £50. Barclaycard pays the tax for the sales assistant. One sales assistant has received so many £50s that she has bought a car with the proceeds.

Professional thieves learn fast where they may be caught and some of the large new out-of-town shopping malls are finding that fraudsters are moving to them from inner cities. Liverpool still tops the credit card fraud league, according to Barclaycard.

The number of cards intercepted before the customer receives them has fallen since large numbers have been delivered by security customers or to branches for customers to collect. This now accounts for 20 per cent of fraud. A fast growing, though as yet small category, are counterfeit cards.

These account for 6 per cent of fraudulent purchases. They often do not have a magnetic stripe and cannot be used in electronic machines.

Credit cardholders are told to report the loss of a card immediately and to keep the card number and the telephone number of the company to hand. It is no use at home if it takes two hours to get there.

Statements should be checked carefully as should credit card vouchers. Never sign an open voucher except for car hire or in hotels, where the card is used as a guarantee of payment. When the bill is finally paid the amount should be checked.

When abroad the card should not be let out of the customer's sight. In restaurants, the plastic imprinter should be brought to the table or the cardholder should follow the waiter to the till.

Stores keen to reduce the amount of cash in their tills are encouraging debit card

customers to take cash as well as their shopping. This cash-back facility started in supermarkets in America, was first used in garages in this country and now is available in supermarkets and other shops with large cash sales.

Lloyds said a 10 per cent increase in fraud or attempted fraudulent use of cards was likely over Christmas. At the same time, it was expecting a rise of up to 25 per cent in spending. However, people should not get carried away and exceed their credit limit. Instead they should go out with a clear idea of what they want to spend on each person, the bank said. Cardholders can find out how much credit they have left by looking at the bottom of their statement. Alternatively, they can ring up and find out. People should also make sure they make at least the minimum repayment required on their bill over the Christmas period otherwise the card might be blocked.

## Second holders at risk over claims for compensation

MILLIONS of cardholders are not legally eligible for compensation if their Christmas purchases by card turn out to be defective, and could be the first to suffer if there is a dispute among banks as to who should pay out, the Law Society said this week.

Those buying expensive presents or booking holidays over Christmas with a credit card will normally be protected under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 if the presents turn out to be defective or an airline or tour operator goes under. Under the act, cardholders can recover the cost of any purchase between £100 and £30,000 from the card issuer. Banks are bracing themselves for the annual onslaught on their card handling systems, expecting a rush of card purchases in the run-up to Christmas.

However, the Law Society said the act was in need of "urgent reform" because it was not clear whether the protection people think they have under the Consumer Credit Act exists. One of the most significant omissions

under the act is second card holders, who have no legal right to a payout. Second cardholders are not liable for debts run up on the card and card issuers only have an obligation under the act to the debtor, who is considered to be the first named cardholder.

These people have to rely on the banks' goodwill to pay out voluntarily. All the big banks say they will do so, but Charles Maggs, secretary to the consumer and commercial law committee at the Law Society, said: "It is open to the banks to change their policy. If there is no legal obligation to pay, why should they? The law should give cardholders the protection they think they have."

Those not legally covered are the most vulnerable if

banks dispute claims for compensation. Credit-card use has become more complex since the act was drafted and many transactions involve two card issuers. Typically, one issuer will handle all a retailer's transactions but this may not be the same issuer of the customer's card. This leaves the way open for banks to argue about who is responsible for paying compensation.

Lawyers and banks still cannot agree on whether the act covers cardholders' purchases abroad. The Banking Ombudsman said in his report this week that he believed cardholders were not covered abroad "although the position is not entirely clear from doubt". Mr Maggs could not see any "geographical limita-

tion" in the wording of the act, however. The Office of Fair Trading shares this view. Banks say they will normally not pay out for cards used abroad.

The need to clarify such grey areas has united the Law Society, consumer groups and the banks in an unlikely alliance. Jean Eaglesham, head of money policy at the Consumers' Association, said: "We have been worried about this for a while. It is a valuable protection but clarification would remove anomalies."

Lloyds and NatWest said clarification would be "helpful". Those with Lloyds Visa debit cards are the only debit cardholders to be covered under the act. Holders of Lloyds Gold cards who use their cards anywhere in the world also have 90 days' purchase protection.

Barclaycard offers protection for 100 days on items over £50 not covered by household insurance. The number of claims increases by 50 per cent in December.

SARA MCCONNELL

## Saying that won't do nicely

PEOPLE whose Barclaycard applications are rejected are getting fuller explanations as to why they failed to pass muster and a chance to try again, if they can supply more information (Lindsay Cook writes).

The largest card issuer, with more than 8 million customers, felt that its rather terse rejection letter was "slamming the door in people's faces". So, in a limited experiment at the end of October, it started using a series of new letters explaining why applicants had been turned down. So far, 1,200 of those refused a card have been given an indication where the problem might lie and about 12 per cent have supplied more information to support their applications.

Earlier this year, the Office of Fair Trading recommended that banks should give reasons for declining applications. Pat Ingle, director, risk management, of Barclaycard, said: "On moral grounds we decided we should try to make it work."

There are now four different, five-paragraph letters that are being sent to the unsuccessful applicants. The first refers to credit scoring and points out that while no individual factor leads to the decision the questions about residen-

tial status and years at an address lowered the overall score of the applicant. Mr Ingle explained that tenants had a different risk rating from owner-occupiers and tenants in furnished homes were different from those in unfurnished property.

Marital status and age can lower the overall score for applicants. Mr Ingle said: "There are different weightings for married, single and divorced applicants." The young have a different weighting from older people. "We do not profit-score and decline older people because we think they will not use their cards."

Those people rejected because insufficient or adverse information has come from their bank or building society receive the third letter. This may be sent if they bank outside Barclays and their bank refuses to give a reference. "While some could be good customers, we cannot get information on them. Others may have an appalling financial history. This is the letter that we have had a handful of problems with and will probably revise it."

Currently, it says that details of the length of time the customer has had a bank account, the type of customer relationship and the manner in which the

account is conducted could have lowered the overall score. The last letter refers to employment details including the nature of the job and time at work. "Those who have not got a job are in a generally higher risk category than those in regularly paid work. We tend to classify housewives as homemakers rather than unemployed. Often additional information is helpful for applicants initially declined."

Those initially turned down are asked for their partner's annual income before tax, their mortgage or rent payments, and other credit payments. People who are turned down because something adverse is on the records of credit reference agencies can find out what is held on them by writing to the agency concerned and paying £1. Any incorrect information should be changed.

Credit card issuers are turning down the majority of applications now. They are cautious about bad debt and people over-extending themselves. Lloyds Bank will not issue cards to non-customers.

Some people who are refused cards suspect it is because they have always paid off existing card bills in full. Barclaycard says this is never the case. There will be other reasons that the new letters should indicate.

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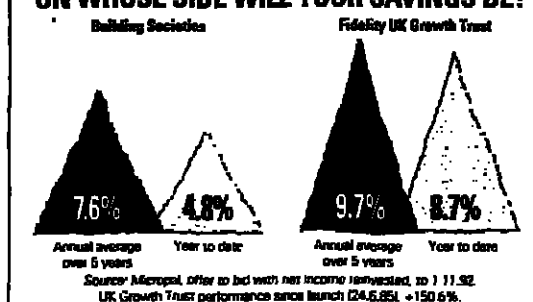
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# Tips of the job are a taxable perk

BY LIZ DOLAN

TAXI drivers, questioned about whether they declare all their tips to the Inland Revenue, are likely to change the subject with alacrity, pausing only to mention just how badly business has fallen recently. Few, if any, will give a frank account of whether the full amount of income derived from tipping ever finds its way on to their tax form.

Officially, no taxi driver can dodge the system. A Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association spokesman said: "The tax man is now very good at dealing with the black economy. Years ago, the situation was very different. But now, taxi drivers have to pay the full amount."

"I would say the situation is now skewed in favour of the Revenue. For instance, people who work less hours because of the recession, or have gone into semi-retirement, are often assessed as though they are still working a full week."

He refused to dismiss as paranoia claims that the Revenue employs former taxi drivers as undercover agents to assess drivers' true incomes.

However, an accountant who numbers several taxi drivers among his clients, tells a different story. "A cab driver can only be assessed on the information he is prepared to give. The Inland Revenue uses

various formulae when estimating his likely income, but they have no way of knowing exactly how much he has earned."

This is because each driver is responsible for keeping his own records, based on the daily total recorded on his clock. It is not possible for an outside authority to check that the records are based on an accurate daily reading, the accountant said.

The Inland Revenue's estimates depend primarily on the amount of relief claimed for fuel expenses. Calculations are then made using a complicated formula derived from years of experience in dealing with taxi drivers' tax assessments.

When preparing estimates, the Inland Revenue adds 10 per cent of basic turnover for tips, and a further 5 per cent for additional charges for luggage and journeys that involve more than one passenger.

Although he had no concrete evidence, the accountant said there was probably a case to be made for reducing the assumption for tips to 7.5 per cent, or even 5 per cent, of turnover because people tend to tip less in a recession.

The Inland Revenue was not prepared to discuss the



existence of set formulae. A spokesman said: "We have to proceed on the assumption that parties are honest and do declare their full income. Some people do escape the net, of course, but they run the risk of being caught, which will mean having to pay penalties such as fines and interest on the unpaid tax

from the date on which it was due."

Penalties charged can be as much as twice the unpaid tax, but they depend on the gravity of the offence and the amount of co-operation shown when the tax dodger is finally brought to book.

Restaurant workers whose employers operate a tip

pooling system — when tips are collected centrally and shared out among staff — should have less opportunity of hiding earnings than those who are allowed to keep individual tips. This is because tips shared out by employees must be added to their basic earnings and thus channelled through the normal pay as you

earn system. When tips are paid cash in hand, there is no official way of checking.

The Inland Revenue may decide to pursue an individual if it suspects tips have not been declared, but this normally depends on the likely wealth of the restaurant's clientele.

However, many restaurant workers never see the tips they have earned. There is no legal requirement for employers to pass on money added to the bill by unsuspecting customers and, according to estimates made by the General Union, the GMB, fewer than half of all restaurant workers receive more than their basic wages.

A GMB spokesman said that this sad state of affairs could easily have deteriorated further in the recession, although he had no hard evidence that this was the case.

Tipping is not the only additional income that attracts tax.

While most people are aware of taxable perks such as company cars, they may be surprised to learn that the firm's Christmas party, or annual dinner dance, may also land them with a tax bill.

Events provided for large sections of the staff that cost more than £50 a head will result in an extra deduction from individual salaries. If the value of the perk goes above the £50 limit, tax is charged on the full amount.

## Insurers assess cost of stormy weather

DRAMATIC television and press pictures of flooded village streets and waterlogged vehicles have given the impression that insurers will face massive claims for flood damage (Liz Dolan writes). Although reports of devastation in Wales and the West Country have led to insurance company shares being marked down on the stock market, the companies appear to be taking a more sanguine view. Most of the flooding has occurred over pastureland which, while bad news for rabbits and field moles, is unlikely to affect many humans.

Mike Dunderdale, managing director of Robins, Davies & Ware, a West Country loss adjuster, said: "We're not expecting to be asked to investigate a huge amount of claims. The Swansea office is a bit busy and the Taunton office is seeing some business, but, for the most part, the floods really didn't happen as far as we're concerned."

A spokesman for Royal Insurance agreed: "It's really not a problem. Obviously it's very bad news for some of our clients, but the cost to us is only likely to be about the same as you might expect after a windy night." It was too early to estimate how much Royal would have to pay out, he said.

Individual claims for flooding tend to be quite expensive, but they are often delayed for some time, as a proper assessment is impossible until the property has dried out completely. Loss adjusters might advise waiting to see whether a carpet, for instance, or wall,

that appears to have been badly affected when sopping wet, improves enough to salvage later on, the spokesman said.

Under Royal's basic household policy, families are rehoused until their homes become habitable once more. Royal takes responsibility for drying out the property, with the use of aids such as industrial heaters. "It is only then that we can even start to look at a claim."

Steve Turner, superintendent, household, at Sun Alliance, said: "It's early days yet. Sometimes people don't contact us for a long time, so we can't be sure how many claims we're going to get. However, the overall view is that the damage is not as expensive as was feared earlier in the week." He said that one loss adjuster in the South East had told him he was inundated with work, but "he may be unusual."

People in flooded areas are advised to contact insurers at once so that damage limitation can begin. The Association of British Insurers advises taking emergency precautions as soon as possible. It says: "Don't use gas or electricity until you're told it's safe to do so. Wherever possible, keep doors and windows open and lift floorboards to aid the drying process. Don't redecorate too early and make sure areas under suspended floorboards have dried out thoroughly, or you may get dry rot later on."

Premiums are unlikely to be affected unless the situation worsened considerably.

## Tax help put on video

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Inland Revenue has produced a free video and booklet for people about to start up in business.

The video outlines seven steps self-employed people need to take if they are not to fall foul of the taxman and is the first in what the Revenue hopes will become a series on different aspects of the tax system.

Self-employed people and tax officers featured in the video, *Getting tax right from the start*, stress that people setting up on their own should contact the local tax office before starting to trade.

Keeping a clear record of business receipts and earnings and day-to-day expenditure once the business has started is vital. The booklet with the video lists rent, heat, light and telephone, insurance, the costs

of running the car, printing, stationery and staff wages as some of the expenses that can be set against tax.

Those who employ staff are responsible for deducting tax under the pay as you earn system and paying it to the Revenue. At the end of each year, accounts for the business must be filed with the Revenue, otherwise an estimated assessment will be made. The Revenue says those with a turnover of less than £15,000 just have to supply a three-line account showing total turnover, total business expenses and net profit.

The video is available from the Revenue's 400 tax enquiry offices.

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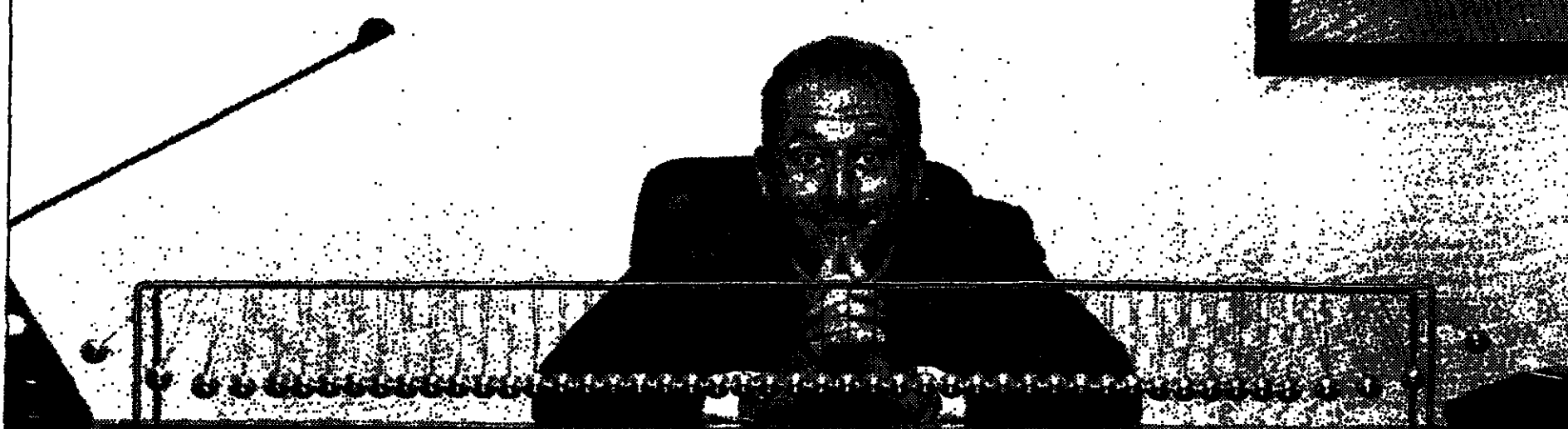
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Bank fees and interest charges top list of complaints to ombudsman

# Loans should carry a health warning

BY LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

BANKS should put limits on guarantees for loans made by spouses, business partners or parents, Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman, said when publishing his annual report.

He has dealt with several cases where a wife has acted as guarantor and allowed the family home to be secured on a business loan for her husband. The loan was small and here "was a spirit of natural love and affection". By the time the cases reach the ombudsman, the couple have often split up and the amount owed is much larger.

In other cases reported to Weekend Money, parents act as guarantors for one loan and are surprised when their children take on subsequent loans that the parents are expected to honour. "There should always be a health warning for any guarantor stating what the maximum liability will be," the ombudsman said.

During the year to end-September, the number of complaints received by his office rose by 60 per cent to more than 10,000. Those about charges and interest topped the list at 1,939 — although most of these were beyond the ombudsman's jurisdiction. Of those cases fully investigated, more than a third concerned cash dispensers.

Mr Shurman believes that the banking code of practice, introduced in March, will reduce the number of problems in this area. The code limits cash to £50 when a card is used by a third party without the holder's consent, unless he or she has been grossly negligent. However, grossly negligent behaviour is not specified. Writing the personal identification number on the



Fair play: Laurence Shurman, left, with Dame Mary Donaldson, chairman of the office of the banking ombudsman

card is obviously asking for trouble.

In one case decided by the office since the code was introduced, Mr Shurman found for the customer and told the bank that he expected it to use the case as guidance in future cases.

Banks had feared a flood of false claims after the code came in and some dubbed it a fraudster's charter. They believe that the computers operating the cash dispensers cannot be activated without a correct personal identification number and if a third party has used one the customer must have been negligent.

Lloyds Bank said that it referred the case to the ombudsman because it wanted

guidance on what he regarded as gross negligence.

Mr Shurman said that it was possible for numbers to be seen by third parties. Some machines are set low down, making it easy for anyone in the queue to observe the number. Others are positioned in such a way that the customer has to move to one side to be able to see the instructions in bright sunlight.

The ombudsman said he had found plenty of evidence of fraud. Often it involved someone known to the complainant. "Cases have happened through other sources inside the banks and from other third party means."

In one case, a bank did not act quickly enough to cancel a

card that was reported stolen.

The bank said that £150 was withdrawn before the theft was reported and £500 was withdrawn afterwards. As a gesture of goodwill, the bank credited the customer with £325 — half the money lost. The ombudsman ruled that the bank was not entitled to enforce its strict contractual conditions. The customer's loss was reduced to £150. If the case had happened after the code came into operation, the customer might only have had £50 to pay, the report said.

A dispenser's audit trail was examined in every disputed case. Cash dispenser fraud could be reduced by giving customers a choice of personal identification numbers so they

could be remembered more easily, by limiting the amount of cash that can be dispensed, monitoring suspicious withdrawal patterns and sending more frequent statements on savings accounts with cash cards. With the latter, large sums can be withdrawn without the customer knowing.

The cost of closing an account is another source of contention with customers. In one case, a bank had levied £10 for closing the account of a deceased customer. It was not until the solicitor told the bank that it had referred the complaint to the ombudsman that a refund was made.

Mr Shurman said he would not back customers who claimed the same cost for

writing letters that the banks charged customers. Customers might be able to claim they earned £50 an hour in their work, but when they wrote to their banks they were not working in this capacity. In most cases he ruled that the time of a customer was worth £5 to £10 an hour.

Time taken off work for bank meetings would be paid for if the customer lost wages because of them. An architect who claimed £25,000 for his own time in sorting out overpayment of interest of £16,000 on two property loans was paid £500 or 50p an hour for the time claimed.

In another case, three sisters in their nineties sought advice from a bank's financial services adviser. He defrauded them of £12,000. After a long delay, the bank repaid the £12,000, but refused any additional compensation. Eventually, the bank decided to pay interest of £3,000, £500 for inconvenience and distress and £750 plus VAT for legal fees.

A couple whose cheque was bounced, preventing them from buying a café in which they were tenants, were awarded £27,000 in compensation. The bank, however, took £22,000 of this to cover money owed from the customer's business account.

The ombudsman may be contacted by writing to the Office of the Banking Ombudsman, Citadel House, 5-11 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BR. Complaints should have worked their way through the bank's complaints procedures before being referred. However, if a bank is tardy in handling a case, the ombudsman can hurry things along. A pilot study is being carried out to see if the complaints procedure can be speeded up.

Comment, page 21

Great Central Railway (1976) PLC - 1992 Share Issue

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## Friendly society may have to impose levy

By Sara McConnell

HOLDERS of policies at the Lancashire & Yorkshire Assurance Society, the friendly society that this week suspended new business, may have to pay a levy to cover a £4 million loss sustained by the society on property investments.

The society said a levy was one option being considered. This could be in the order of 45 per cent of the policy's value for each of the society's 25,000 policies in force.

The vast majority of these policies, some 70,000, had exposure to property investments, although nearly 10,000 of the members had endorsements on their policies that specified contributions should not be invested in property.

Since 1989, these investments have been held in the Capital Secure Board. The value of the property portfolio is now £2.5 million, less than

half the £6.8 million it had cost to buy.

The society is to ask the High Court to decide whether compensation should be paid and if so, where the payout should come from. The application to court is likely to be filed in the new year. Any levy on policyholders would depend on the court's decision.

Those who had sustained losses could find themselves paying a levy to help fund their own compensation. Policyholders will not be able to apply for compensation to the Policyholders' Protection Board, because this pays out only if societies go under. There is no question at the moment of this happening in Lancashire & Yorkshire's case.

Payouts on maturing policies will continue in the normal way. The price of the units has already taken the losses into account.

## General Accident changes policies

GENERAL Accident has changed its motor policies and home insurance for new customers after carrying out extensive research on what motorists and homeowners want (Lindsay Cook writes).

The MotorOptions policy offers basic comprehensive cover throughout Europe and allows motorists to decide what extras they want. These include replacement car hire at £32. Breakdown assistance, provided by Europ Assistance, is offered for an extra £49.75 and legal expenses insurance at £10.

The new policy will also have an additional no claims bonus for customers who have already earned the 60 per cent discount. This will give them a total discount of 66 per cent.

The company already offers a no claims discount on its home policies of up to 25 per cent. It is now launching a bedroom-based policy, but allowing policyholders to add to it where their possessions exceed the limits. The premiums are based on numbers of bedrooms and postcodes, but the company is using its 65 regional offices to improve the risk assessments of areas. Subsidies, for example, is not neatly contained within post code districts.

HomeOptions is intended to simplify insurance. The basic contents policy will offer cover for fire, flood and theft. Customers can add on accidental damage and cover for possessions outside the home. The standard excess is £50, which means that policyholders pay the first £50 of any claim. Those who are willing to pay the first £250 on a buildings policy get a 25 per cent discount. With contents the discount is 20 per cent. Higher discounts can be earned with larger excesses.

Norwich Union will, from next month, offer a 10 per cent discount for household policyholders who have not made a claim for three years. This is in addition to the 10 per cent discount introduced in July for those who have held a policy for three consecutive years.

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## BRIEFINGS

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□ Holders of shares in the 12 electricity companies can exchange them this month for shares in Fleming Investment trusts for a fee of £7.50.

□ Abbey National has two fixed-rate mortgages. The first is at 7.2 per cent until April 1995, and includes two years' free unemployment cover. The booking fee is £199 and buildings and contents insurance is required.

ance is required. The second has a fixed rate of 8.75 per cent until February 28, 1995. The booking fee is £199.

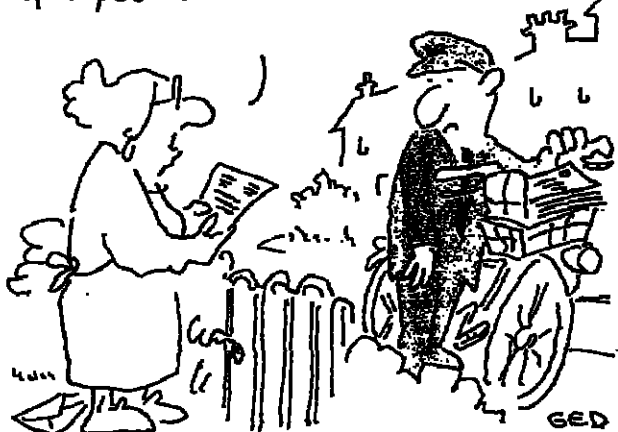
□ Storehouse is launching a low-cost service for dealings in its own shares. Available through Cazenove & Co, it costs 1 per cent with no minimum fee. The minimum lump sum postal purchase for a new investor is £200.

## Two sides to tax refunds

From Mr P. A. Hollings  
Sir, I read with interest your Comment (November 21) on the difficulties which lie in the way of individuals who wish to reclaim income tax deducted from interest credited by building societies.

My wife is entitled to make such a claim, but, so far, our problems have arisen with the building societies. I recently rang our local society for a certificate of deduction of tax, to support a claim by my wife for the current year. At first, I was given a number of unhelpful reasons why such a certificate could not be issued now, including a suggestion that there were Inland Revenue instructions. I refused to accept what I was told and was promised that the question would be attended to. Having heard nothing, I made an official complaint. The second paragraph of the letter I received in reply suggests that the Inland Revenue is indeed putting obstacles in the way of repayment during a year. No wonder individuals are discouraged from making claims. It is within my knowledge that investors are unaware they may make claims. Last year, I attempted to persuade a couple of societies to either issue certificates of deduction of tax automatically, or at least to bring to notice

They should get my letter yesterday if I post it tomorrow



of members the possibility of reclaiming tax overpaid, but without any success, so far. Do you not agree that societies have some responsibility to advise members of the entitlement in this respect?

Yours faithfully,  
P. A. HOLLINGS,  
2 Davey Close,  
Impington,  
Cambridge.

more than a year to get the money".  
I submitted my claim to Plymouth 3 and received a cheque for the due amount ten days later. I would hope that in the interest of fairness you would publish this letter.

Yours sincerely,  
AUDREY PHILLIPS,  
1 Victoria Court,  
Durdham Park, Bristol.

## Malvern masters' case and the use of Hansard by the law lords

From Mr John Hart  
Sir, Rather naturally I read the articles by Lindsay Cook and Sara McConnell on Pepper v Hart (Weekend Money, November 28) with more than usual interest. They were en-

tirely accurate as far as they went, but there is one aspect of the case that is of real public concern, unconnected with its implications for personal tax, which I have not seen discussed anywhere.

If the House of Lords was going to remove its "self-imposed blinkers" (our counsel's phrase) and look into Hansard, an average literate ten-year-old could have seen that the Inland Revenue's case was doomed. That, no doubt, explains why the law lords were treated to the undignified spectacle of the Commons' senior law officer (for the Revenue) urging them to pay no attention to what the Commons said. The attorney-general even argued that the use of Hansard as an aid to construing legislation might constitute a prima facie breach of parliamentary privilege: the Commons, evidently, didn't mind people reading Hansard as long as they didn't take it seriously. As all the world now knows, their lordships did look at Hansard, and the Revenue were duly taken to the cleaners—7-0 to Malvern. Question: in the face of so pellucid a parliamentary in-

tervention, how was it that the Revenue not only thought it worth while to try it on, but actually found two courts to agree with it? The answer can only be incompetent drafting. The public at large is entitled to assume that all new legislation accurately reflects the wishes of Parliament. Perhaps a system should be devised whereby those responsible for drafting legislation were surcharged, if their incompetence led to prolonged litigation: that might concentrate their minds somewhat.

I am inclined to discount fears that the law lords' decision will lead to a change in the law: only Parliament, not the Revenue, can make laws, and their lordships have now established that the law is what Parliament said it should be, and two of them went out of their way to stress the absurdity of the consequences that would have flowed from the interpretation they rejected. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, JOHN HART (Senior Classics Master), Malvern College, Malvern, Worcestershire.

## Post haste from the Revenue

From Miss G. M. Briggs  
Sir, On November 26 I received a reminder, kindly phrased, from HM Collector of Taxes about a payment falling due shortly. Coming from Glasgow by second-class mail it could not have been posted later than November 24, possibly even 23, but the letter itself was dated November 27. Can I trust that the payment due date is not

simply pushed ahead? In this same premature letter, one is urged to avoid paying by post, if possible, and four preferable ways are suggested. Is this an affront to the postal service or a sad comment on things as they are? Yours sincerely, GRACE M. BRIGGS, 9 Butler Close, Woodstock Road, Oxford.

## BANKS

|                      | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact     |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| Ordinary Dep A/c:    |             |                       |                    |        |             |
| Typical              | 0.38        | 0.38                  | 0.30               | 1,000  | 7 day       |
| Fixed Term Deposits: |             |                       |                    |        |             |
| Barclays             | 4.45        | 4.45                  | 25,000-50,000      | 1 mth  | 071-428 155 |
| Challenger & Co      | 4.45        | 4.45                  | 25,000-50,000      | 3 mth  | 071-428 155 |
| City                 | 4.45        | 4.45                  | 10,000-no max      | 1 mth  | Local       |
| City of London       | 4.31        | 4.31                  | 10,000-no max      | 6 mth  | Local       |
| City of London       | 4.31        | 4.31                  | 10,000-no max      | 1 mth  | Local       |
| Midland              | 4.31        | 4.31                  | 10,000-no max      | 1 mth  | 0742 52855  |
| NatWest              | 4.41        | 4.41                  | 25,000-50,000      | 1 mth  | 071-728 180 |
| NatWest              | 4.31        | 4.31                  | 25,000-50,000      | 3 mth  | 071-728 180 |

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|----------------------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------------|
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| Barclays             | 2.68 | 2.68 | 2.13 | 2,500 | none | 0804 25891  |
| Prime a/c            | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.30 | 500   | none | 071 525 553 |
| Co-operative         | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.30 | 1,000 | none | 072 525 553 |
| City Bank            | 2.05 | 2.05 | 1.85 | 2,000 | none | 0742 52855  |
| London & Lanc        | 1.50 | 1.51 | 1.31 | 500   | none | 0800 20040  |
| Midland              | 3.00 | 3.08 | 2.42 | 2,000 | none | 031-558 885 |
| Special Reserve      | 2.06 | 2.06 | 1.85 | 2,000 | none | 071-600 690 |
| TSB Bank             |      |      |      |       |      |             |
| NCA                  |      |      |      |       |      |             |

## BUILDING SOCIETIES

|                            | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice     | Contact |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------|---------|
| Ordinary Share A/c         | 1.75        | 1.75                  | 1.75               | 1+         | none    |
| Best buy - largest assets: |             |                       |                    |            |         |
| Challenger & Co            | 7.25        | 7.25                  | 5.75               | 10,000 min | Postal  |
| Challenger & Co            | 7.50        | 7.50                  | 6.00               | 25,000 min | Postal  |
| City of London             | 5.25        | 5.25                  | 4.25               | 40,000 min | 30 day  |
| London Permanent           | 6.44        | 6.44                  | 4.44               | 50,000 min | 1 year  |
| Woolwich                   | 7.88        | 7.88                  | 6.30               | 50,000 min | 1 year  |
| Best buy - all assets:     |             |                       |                    |            |         |
| Challenger & Co            | 7.50        | 7.50                  | 6.00               | 25,000 min | Postal  |
| Challenger & Co            | 7.50        | 7.50                  | 6.00               | 25,000 min | 30 day  |
| City & Midland             | 6.38        | 6.38                  | 5.10               | 10,000 min | 60 day  |
| National City              | 6.80        | 6.80                  | 5.28               | 20,000 min | 90 day  |
| Greenwich                  | 7.20        | 7.20                  | 5.60               | 50,000 min | 1 year  |

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

|                 | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact     |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|-------------|
| Ordinary A/c    | 6.00        | 6.00                  | 5-10,000           | 8 day  | 041-648-455 |
| Investment A/c  | 6.25        | 6.25                  | 5-10,000           | 1 mth  | 041-648-455 |
| Income Bond     | 8.00        | 8.00                  | 2,000-50,000       | 3 mth  | 0253 8951   |
| First Step Bond | 6.50        | 6.50                  | 1,000-5,000        | 1 mth  | 0272 6181   |
| 40th Index Cert | 6.75        | 6.75                  | 100-5,000          | 8 day  | 091-388-480 |
| Yearly Plan     | 5.75        | 5.75                  | 20-400/mth         | 14 day | 091-388-480 |
| Children's Bond | 7.00        | 7.00                  | 100-5,000          | 8 day  | 041-648-455 |
| Gen Ed Rate     | 5.75        | 5.75                  | 100-100,000        | 8 day  | 041-648-455 |
| Capital Bonds   | 7.75        | 7.75                  | 100-100,000        | 8 day  | 041-648-455 |

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

|               |      |      |      |            |       |             |
|---------------|------|------|------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Property      | 5.50 | 5.55 | 4.72 | 25,000 min | 2 yrs | Change in   |
| Liberty Life  | 6.40 | 6.40 | 5.44 | 50,000 min | 3 yrs | Yes         |
| Financial Ass | 6.20 | 6.20 | 5.27 | 5,000 min  | 4 yrs | 071 404 576 |
| Financial Ass | 6.55 | 6.55 | 5.57 | 5,000 min  | 6 yrs | for details |

| RATES           |          | HOLIDAY RATES    |  | £ boys |
|-----------------|----------|------------------|--|--------|
| RPI (Oct 81-82) | +3.6%    | Spanish Pousades |  | 17150  |
| Bank Base Rate  | 7%       | French Francs:   |  | 810    |
| Personal Loan   | 28%      | Greek Dracmas:   |  | 32700  |
| Credit Card     | 25 - 27% | Italian Lira:    |  | 21160  |

## RATES

|                 | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| RPI (Oct 91-92) | +3.6%       |                       |                    |        |         |
| Bank Base Rate  | 7%          |                       |                    |        |         |
| Personal Loan   | 25%         |                       |                    |        |         |
| Credit Card     | 15-27%      |                       |                    |        |         |

## HOLIDAY RATES

|               | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| Spanish       | 1730        |                       |                    |        |         |
| French        | 810         |                       |                    |        |         |
| Great Britain | 2100        |                       |                    |        |         |
| United States | 2100        |                       |                    |        |         |

## TESSA

|                 | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact    |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|------------|
| National City   | 9.50        | 9.50                  | 90 days less first | 25,000 | 0372 74211 |
| Allied Trust    | 9.49        | 9.49                  | 225+2mths notice   | 50,000 | 071 283111 |
| Chelmsford      | 9.49        | 9.49                  | 225+2mths notice   | 50,000 | 071 283111 |
| West Birmingham | 9.00        | 9.00                  | 225+1mths notice   | 50,000 | 021 252570 |
| Beverley        | 9.00        | 9.00                  | 225+1mths notice   | 50,000 | 0482 88510 |

## BUILDING SOCIETIES

|                    | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact                          |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Universal          | 6.05        | 6.05                  | £100k              | 95     | After 2.5% discount for 6 months |
| 091 232 0573       |             |                       |                    |        |                                  |
| Yorkshire          | 6.00        | 6.00                  | £250k              | 95     | After 2.5% discount for 6 months |
| 0274 740740        |             |                       |                    |        |                                  |
| Bradford & Bingley | 6.05        | 6.05                  | £50k+              | 90     | After 1.25% for 1st 12 months    |
| 0274 555555        |             |                       |                    |        |                                  |

## BANKS

|                | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact              |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Abbey National | 6.35        | 6.35                  | 250-100k           | 90     | After 1.75% discount |
| 0800 555100    |             |                       |                    |        |                      |

## BANKS

|                     | Normal rate | Compounded at 25% 40% | Minimum investment | Notice | Contact                        |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Royal Bank of Scot. | 6.50        | 6.50                  | 250k+              | 95     | After 2% discount for 1st year |
| 012 522 8555        |             |                       |                    |        |                                |

## Do you prefer to be charged £300 or £15 for a PEP?

An initial charge of just 1% - that's just £15 on an investment of £1,500 compared with the usual £300 charged by many companies - makes The Equitable PEP - a tax-free savings plan - a particularly attractive way of easing yourself into the Stock Market.

Unlike most forms of saving, this tax-free savings plan is entirely free of income and capital gains tax, whether you decide to take the proceeds as income or as a lump sum, because it is a unit trust Personal Equity Plan.

In addition to its tax incentives, the Plan has great flexibility. You can invest monthly, annually or contribute a lump sum. What's more, you do not have to commit yourself to making identical contributions. And you have the choice of having the income from the Plan paid in cash or reinvested.

Remember that the value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. The above is based on current tax legislation which can change in the future.

If you would like further information by post and by telephone on The Equitable PEP - a tax-free savings plan, contact Equitable Unit Trust Managers on Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or send off the coupon below.

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD

Member of The Equitable Group of Companies

Member of LIAISON

Equitable Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Priory, Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX12 9JL

To: Equitable Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Priory, Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX12 9JL

Backs PEP 738

I'd welcome further information on The Equitable PEP - a tax-free savings plan.

I am interested in regular saving ☐ lump sum investment ☐ TMA28

NAME (Mr/Ms/Mrs)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Tel: Office

Date of Birth

Tel: Home

## M&amp;G EUROPEAN &amp; GENERAL RECORD

| Year ended 31st December | Building Society | £1,000 Lump Sum        | Amount Invested | Building Society | £40 a month            |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
|                          |                  | M&G European & General |                 |                  | M&G European & General |
| 24 July 1972             | £1,000           | £1,000                 | £40             | £40              | £40                    |
| 1972                     | 1,020            | 958                    | 200             | 202              | 189                    |
| 1973                     | 1,088            | 978                    | 680             | 713              | 616                    |
| 1974                     | 1,171            | 698                    | 1,160           | 1,267            | 804                    |
| 1975                     | 1,257            | 944                    | 1,640           | 1,859            | 1,606                  |
| 1976                     | 1,347            | 878                    | 2,120           | 2,491            | 1,923                  |
| 1977                     | 1,443            | 952                    | 2,600           | 3,166            | 2,555                  |
| 1978                     | 1,537            | 1,028                  | 3,080           | 3,871            | 3,227                  |
| 1979                     | 1,670            | 1,202                  | 3,560           | 4,707            | 4,272                  |
| 1980                     | 1,847            | 1,364                  | 4,040           | 5,713            | 5,321                  |
| 1981                     | 2,021            | 1,328                  | 4,520           | 6,755            | 5,628                  |
| 1982                     | 2,203            | 1,506                  | 5,000           | 7,865            | 6,893                  |
| 1983                     | 2,366            | 1,918                  | 5,480           | 8,946            | 9,272                  |
| 1984                     | 2,552            | 2,346                  | 5,960           | 10,153           | 11,839                 |
| 1985                     | 2,779            | 3,528                  | 6,440           | 11,557           | 18,407                 |
| 1986                     | 2,999            | 5,724                  | 6,920           | 12,970           | 30,437                 |
| 1987                     | 3,231            | 4,672                  | 7,400           | 14,476           | 25,201                 |
| 1988                     | 3,462            | 5,532                  | 7,880           | 16,010           | 30,332                 |
| 1989                     | 3,789            | 8,570                  | 8,360           | 18,024           | 47,564                 |
| 1990                     | 4,198            | 7,090                  | 8,840           | 20,480           | 39,744                 |
| 1991                     | 4,552            | 7,472                  | 9,320           | 22,709           | 42,327                 |
| 30 Nov 1992              | 4,840*           | 8,328                  | 9,760           | 24,601*          | 47,610                 |

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G European & General figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). The regular savings figures exclude the last payment and all payments apart from the first are made on the last business day of the month.

An investment in M&G European & General of £1,000 on 30th November, 1987 would be worth £1,706 by 30th November, 1992. An investment of £40 a month from 30th November, 1987 (£2,400) would be worth £2,756 by 30th November, 1992 with net income re-invested. \*Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

The M&G European & General Fund is only one of a large range of M&G International Funds. For details of M&G's range please return this coupon to The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

Mr/Ms/Mrs

INITIALS SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TCLA

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M&G

UNIT TRUSTS · SAVINGS PLANS

## Due notice

From Professor J. E. Adams  
Sir, Sheila Morley (Letters, November 28) is quite wrong. Sharing a bathroom or kitchen with a landlord does indeed prevent the creation of an assured tenancy. However, it does not affect the application of the Protection from Eviction Act 1977. That requires

(a) a minimum of four weeks' notice

(b) prescribed information (informing the tenant of his rights) in that notice and

(c) a court order before retaking possession.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. ADAMS  
(Professor Emeritus),  
Department of Law,  
Queen Mary and Westfield  
College, University of London,  
Mile End Road, E1.

## Loose change

From Ms Annie Irvine  
Sir, I called in at a London branch of the Midland Bank requesting that a £5 note be exchanged for smaller coins.

I was informed that this would incur a £3 charge.

This was later confirmed by Midland Bank's head office, which added that were I to become a customer of the bank, no charge would be made.

As I'm sure you know, the Midland Bank's advertising slogan positions it as The Listening Bank, but I fear that on this occasion the gist of my reply would have been lost on them.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNIE IRVINE,  
Tudor Cottage,  
Ham, Nr Marlborough,  
Wiltshire.



## Portfolio Plus

From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall dividend figure. If it matches the daily total on the card, you have won the game. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company         | Group         | Gain or Loss |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1   | Portals         | Industrial    |              |
| 2   | Richardson West | Industrial    |              |
| 3   | Royle           | Insurance     |              |
| 4   | Windsor R       | Chemicals     |              |
| 5   | RAC GP          | Building/Rd   |              |
| 6   | First Leisure   | Leisure       |              |
| 7   | Spring Ram      | Industrial    |              |
| 8   | Lee (Arthur)    | Industrial    |              |
| 9   | Smith WH A      | Drugs/Pharm   |              |
| 10  | Morton Thompson | Breweries     |              |
| 11  | Morrison W      | Food          |              |
| 12  | Midlands Elec   | Electricity   |              |
| 13  | Aiden Hume      | Finance/Land  |              |
| 14  | Sh Western      | Electricity   |              |
| 15  | T & N           | Industrial    |              |
| 16  | Countrywide     | Building/Rd   |              |
| 17  | Peiray Group    | Industrial    |              |
| 18  | Bart AGH        | Food          |              |
| 19  | Laporte         | Chemicals     |              |
| 20  | Sh Water        | Electricity   |              |
| 21  | South West      | Water         |              |
| 22  | East & Lyle     | Food          |              |
| 23  | Young W         | Property      |              |
| 24  | Northern Elec   | Electricity   |              |
| 25  | Trakia Chem     | Industrial    |              |
| 26  | South Eastern   | Electricity   |              |
| 27  | William R       | Building/Rd   |              |
| 28  | Intero          | Industrial    |              |
| 29  | Staveley        | Industrial    |              |
| 30  | PWS             | Insurance     |              |
| 31  | Chemical        | Industrial    |              |
| 32  | Rocheman B      | Tobacco       |              |
| 33  | Cumulative      | Chemicals     |              |
| 34  | Gold Greenlake  | Paper/Print   |              |
| 35  | Trinity Int     | Newspaper/Pub |              |
| 36  | London Elec     | Electricity   |              |
| 37  | Northumbrian    | Water         |              |
| 38  | Owners Abnd     | Leisure       |              |
| 39  | Prost Group     | Industrial    |              |

**£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES**  
If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 5.00pm (see the Sunday Times for full details).

The winner of yesterday's Portfolio Plus prize of £4,000 was Mr A. Robson of Hamble, Southampton.

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

| 1992 | High | Low | Company             | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 282  | 282  | 282 | ABN-Amro            | 282   | 282 | 282 | 282 |
| 283  | 283  | 283 | Barclays            | 283   | 283 | 283 | 283 |
| 284  | 284  | 284 | Bank of Scotland    | 284   | 284 | 284 | 284 |
| 285  | 285  | 285 | Bank of Ireland     | 285   | 285 | 285 | 285 |
| 286  | 286  | 286 | Bank of London      | 286   | 286 | 286 | 286 |
| 287  | 287  | 287 | Bank of Montreal    | 287   | 287 | 287 | 287 |
| 288  | 288  | 288 | Bank of New York    | 288   | 288 | 288 | 288 |
| 289  | 289  | 289 | Bank of Paris       | 289   | 289 | 289 | 289 |
| 290  | 290  | 290 | Bank of Spain       | 290   | 290 | 290 | 290 |
| 291  | 291  | 291 | Bank of Sweden      | 291   | 291 | 291 | 291 |
| 292  | 292  | 292 | Bank of Switzerland | 292   | 292 | 292 | 292 |
| 293  | 293  | 293 | Bank of Tokyo       | 293   | 293 | 293 | 293 |
| 294  | 294  | 294 | Bank of West        | 294   | 294 | 294 | 294 |
| 295  | 295  | 295 | Bank of Yugoslavia  | 295   | 295 | 295 | 295 |
| 296  | 296  | 296 | Bank of Zaire       | 296   | 296 | 296 | 296 |
| 297  | 297  | 297 | Bank of Zimbabwe    | 297   | 297 | 297 | 297 |
| 298  | 298  | 298 | Bank of Zambia      | 298   | 298 | 298 | 298 |
| 299  | 299  | 299 | Bank of Botswana    | 299   | 299 | 299 | 299 |
| 300  | 300  | 300 | Bank of Lesotho     | 300   | 300 | 300 | 300 |

## BREWERIES

| 1992 | High | Low | Company   | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 712  | 712  | 712 | Adnams    | 712   | 712 | 712 | 712 |
| 713  | 713  | 713 | Beck's    | 713   | 713 | 713 | 713 |
| 714  | 714  | 714 | Carlsberg | 714   | 714 | 714 | 714 |
| 715  | 715  | 715 | Guinness  | 715   | 715 | 715 | 715 |
| 716  | 716  | 716 | Heineken  | 716   | 716 | 716 | 716 |
| 717  | 717  | 717 | King's    | 717   | 717 | 717 | 717 |
| 718  | 718  | 718 | Labatt    | 718   | 718 | 718 | 718 |
| 719  | 719  | 719 | Miller    | 719   | 719 | 719 | 719 |
| 720  | 720  | 720 | Newcastle | 720   | 720 | 720 | 720 |
| 721  | 721  | 721 | Orkney    | 721   | 721 | 721 | 721 |
| 722  | 722  | 722 | Reck      | 722   | 722 | 722 | 722 |
| 723  | 723  | 723 | Stout     | 723   | 723 | 723 | 723 |
| 724  | 724  | 724 | Tennent   | 724   | 724 | 724 | 724 |
| 725  | 725  | 725 | Watson    | 725   | 725 | 725 | 725 |
| 726  | 726  | 726 | Wells     | 726   | 726 | 726 | 726 |
| 727  | 727  | 727 | Windsor   | 727   | 727 | 727 | 727 |
| 728  | 728  | 728 | Windsor R | 728   | 728 | 728 | 728 |
| 729  | 729  | 729 | Windsor S | 729   | 729 | 729 | 729 |
| 730  | 730  | 730 | Windsor T | 730   | 730 | 730 | 730 |

## BUILDING, ROADS

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 731  | 731  | 731 | Adrian  | 731   | 731 | 731 | 731 |
| 732  | 732  | 732 | Adrian  | 732   | 732 | 732 | 732 |
| 733  | 733  | 733 | Adrian  | 733   | 733 | 733 | 733 |
| 734  | 734  | 734 | Adrian  | 734   | 734 | 734 | 734 |
| 735  | 735  | 735 | Adrian  | 735   | 735 | 735 | 735 |
| 736  | 736  | 736 | Adrian  | 736   | 736 | 736 | 736 |
| 737  | 737  | 737 | Adrian  | 737   | 737 | 737 | 737 |
| 738  | 738  | 738 | Adrian  | 738   | 738 | 738 | 738 |
| 739  | 739  | 739 | Adrian  | 739   | 739 | 739 | 739 |
| 740  | 740  | 740 | Adrian  | 740   | 740 | 740 | 740 |
| 741  | 741  | 741 | Adrian  | 741   | 741 | 741 | 741 |
| 742  | 742  | 742 | Adrian  | 742   | 742 | 742 | 742 |
| 743  | 743  | 743 | Adrian  | 743   | 743 | 743 | 743 |
| 744  | 744  | 744 | Adrian  | 744   | 744 | 744 | 744 |
| 745  | 745  | 745 | Adrian  | 745   | 745 | 745 | 745 |
| 746  | 746  | 746 | Adrian  | 746   | 746 | 746 | 746 |
| 747  | 747  | 747 | Adrian  | 747   | 747 | 747 | 747 |
| 748  | 748  | 748 | Adrian  | 748   | 748 | 748 | 748 |
| 749  | 749  | 749 | Adrian  | 749   | 749 | 749 | 749 |
| 750  | 750  | 750 | Adrian  | 750   | 750 | 750 | 750 |

## Shares slip in erratic trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 30. Dealings end December 11. Settlement day December 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 301  | 301  | 301 | Adrian  | 301   | 301 | 301 | 301 |
| 302  | 302  | 302 | Adrian  | 302   | 302 | 302 | 302 |
| 303  | 303  | 303 | Adrian  | 303   | 303 | 303 | 303 |
| 304  | 304  | 304 | Adrian  | 304   | 304 | 304 | 304 |
| 305  | 305  | 305 | Adrian  | 305   | 305 | 305 | 305 |
| 306  | 306  | 306 | Adrian  | 306   | 306 | 306 | 306 |
| 307  | 307  | 307 | Adrian  | 307   | 307 | 307 | 307 |
| 308  | 308  | 308 | Adrian  | 308   | 308 | 308 | 308 |
| 309  | 309  | 309 | Adrian  | 309   | 309 | 309 | 309 |
| 310  | 310  | 310 | Adrian  | 310   | 310 | 310 | 310 |
| 311  | 311  | 311 | Adrian  | 311   | 311 | 311 | 311 |
| 312  | 312  | 312 | Adrian  | 312   | 312 | 312 | 312 |
| 313  | 313  | 313 | Adrian  | 313   | 313 | 313 | 313 |
| 314  | 314  | 314 | Adrian  | 314   | 314 | 314 | 314 |
| 315  | 315  | 315 | Adrian  | 315   | 315 | 315 | 315 |
| 316  | 316  | 316 | Adrian  | 316   | 316 | 316 | 316 |
| 317  | 317  | 317 | Adrian  | 317   | 317 | 317 | 317 |
| 318  | 318  | 318 | Adrian  | 318   | 318 | 318 | 318 |
| 319  | 319  | 319 | Adrian  | 319   | 319 | 319 | 319 |
| 320  | 320  | 320 | Adrian  | 320   | 320 | 320 | 320 |

## BUSINESS SERVICES

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 321  | 321  | 321 | Adrian  | 321   | 321 | 321 | 321 |
| 322  | 322  | 322 | Adrian  | 322   | 322 | 322 | 322 |
| 323  | 323  | 323 | Adrian  | 323   | 323 | 323 | 323 |
| 324  | 324  | 324 | Adrian  | 324   | 324 | 324 | 324 |
| 325  | 325  | 325 | Adrian  | 325   | 325 | 325 | 325 |
| 326  | 326  | 326 | Adrian  | 326   | 326 | 326 | 326 |
| 327  | 327  | 327 | Adrian  | 327   | 327 | 327 | 327 |
| 328  | 328  | 328 | Adrian  | 328   | 328 | 328 | 328 |
| 329  | 329  | 329 | Adrian  | 329   | 329 | 329 | 329 |
| 330  | 330  | 330 | Adrian  | 330   | 330 | 330 | 330 |
| 331  | 331  | 331 | Adrian  | 331   | 331 | 331 | 331 |
| 332  | 332  | 332 | Adrian  | 332   | 332 | 332 | 332 |
| 333  | 333  | 333 | Adrian  | 333   | 333 | 333 | 333 |
| 334  | 334  | 334 | Adrian  | 334   | 334 | 334 | 334 |
| 335  | 335  | 335 | Adrian  | 335   | 335 | 335 | 335 |
| 336  | 336  | 336 | Adrian  | 336   | 336 | 336 | 336 |
| 337  | 337  | 337 | Adrian  | 337   | 337 | 337 | 337 |
| 338  | 338  | 338 | Adrian  | 338   | 338 | 338 | 338 |
| 339  | 339  | 339 | Adrian  | 339   | 339 | 339 | 339 |
| 340  | 340  | 340 | Adrian  | 340   | 340 | 340 | 340 |

## ELECTRICITY

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 341  | 341  | 341 | Adrian  | 341   | 341 | 341 | 341 |
| 342  | 342  | 342 | Adrian  | 342   | 342 | 342 | 342 |
| 343  | 343  | 343 | Adrian  | 343   | 343 | 343 | 343 |
| 344  | 344  | 344 | Adrian  | 344   | 344 | 344 | 344 |
| 345  | 345  | 345 | Adrian  | 345   | 345 | 345 | 345 |
| 346  | 346  | 346 | Adrian  | 346   | 346 | 346 | 346 |
| 347  | 347  | 347 | Adrian  | 347   | 347 | 347 | 347 |
| 348  | 348  | 348 | Adrian  | 348   | 348 | 348 | 348 |
| 349  | 349  | 349 | Adrian  | 349   | 349 | 349 | 349 |
| 350  | 350  | 350 | Adrian  | 350   | 350 | 350 | 350 |
| 351  | 351  | 351 | Adrian  | 351   | 351 | 351 | 351 |
| 352  | 352  | 352 | Adrian  | 352   | 352 | 352 | 352 |
| 353  | 353  | 353 | Adrian  | 353   | 353 | 353 | 353 |
| 354  | 354  | 354 | Adrian  | 354   | 354 | 354 | 354 |
| 355  | 355  | 355 | Adrian  | 355   | 355 | 355 | 355 |
| 356  | 356  | 356 | Adrian  | 356   | 356 | 356 | 356 |
| 357  | 357  | 357 | Adrian  | 357   | 357 | 357 | 357 |
| 358  | 358  | 358 | Adrian  | 358   | 358 | 358 | 358 |
| 359  | 359  | 359 | Adrian  | 359   | 359 | 359 | 359 |
| 360  | 360  | 360 | Adrian  | 360   | 360 | 360 | 360 |

## FINANCE, LAND

| 1992 | High | Low | Company | Price | Net | Yld | P/E |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 361  | 361  | 361 | Adrian  | 361   | 361 | 361 | 361 |
| 362  | 362  | 362 | Adrian  | 362   | 362 | 362 | 362 |
| 363  | 363  | 363 | Adrian  | 363   | 363 | 363 | 363 |
| 364  | 364  | 364 | Adrian  | 364   | 364 | 364 | 364 |
| 365  | 365  | 365 | Adrian  | 365   | 365 | 365 | 365 |
| 366  | 366  | 366 | Adrian  | 366   | 366 | 366 | 366 |
| 367  | 367  | 367 | Adrian  | 367   | 367 | 367 | 367 |
| 368  | 368  | 368 | Adrian  | 368   | 368 | 368 | 368 |
| 369  | 369  | 369 | Adrian  | 369   | 369 | 369 | 369 |
| 370  | 370  | 370 | Adrian  | 370   | 370 | 370 | 370 |
| 371  | 371  | 371 | Adrian  | 371   | 371 | 371 | 371 |
| 372  | 372  | 372 | Adrian  | 372   | 372 | 372 | 372 |
| 373  | 373  | 373 | Adrian  | 373   | 373 | 373 | 373 |
| 374  | 374  | 374 | Adrian  | 374   | 374 | 374 | 374 |
| 375  | 375  | 375 | Adrian  | 375   | 375 | 375 | 375 |
| 376  | 376  | 376 | Adrian  | 376   | 376 | 376 | 376 |
| 377  | 377  | 377 | Adrian  | 377   | 377 | 377 | 377 |
| 378  | 378  | 378 | Adrian  | 378   | 378 | 378 | 378 |
| 379  | 379  | 379 | Adrian  | 379   | 379 | 379 | 379 |
| 380  | 380  | 380 | Adrian  | 380   | 380 | 380 | 380 |

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

| 1992 | High | Low | Company</ |
|------|------|-----|-----------|
|------|------|-----|-----------|















# Minnehoma ready to spark another big double for Pipe

MARTIN Pipe had a profitable time on the corresponding day last year when he won the two most valuable races at Cheltenham and Sandown with Carville's Hill and Balasani respectively.

Now the champion trainer looks capable of repeating the achievement with Minnehoma (2.05) and Valfinnet (2.30).

Minnehoma, the best staying novice chaser last season and already many people's idea of the likely Cheltenham Gold Cup winner next March, begins another campaign by contesting the Rehearsal Chase at Cheltenham.

He will be one of three runners Pipe saddles for the race, Bonanza Boy and Run For Free being the other two. Significantly, Peter Scudamore rides Minnehoma even though he has not run this season.

Scudamore has already tested the water on his stable companion Run For Free when they beat the subsequent Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup runner-up, Jodami, to win the Edward Hamner Memorial Chase on his first outing at Haydock last month.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

In the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham, Run For Free finished ten-and-a-half lengths in third place behind Minnehoma at level weights.

On only 6lb better terms, he should not be able to account for a fit and clearly fancied Minnehoma this afternoon. If he is to have any chance of winning the Gold Cup, Minnehoma must now make telling use of the 20lb he receives from Cool Ground, last season's Gold Cup winner. Cool Ground was recently a faller at Aintree.

Capability Brown (2.35), who has won three times over today's course and distance, and The Black Monk (3.05) are other likely winners for Pipe and Scudamore on the Welsh track.

At Sandown, Valfinnet is napped to win the William Hill Handicap Hurdle.

Apart from winning it last year with Balasani, Martin Pipe also plundered the prize in 1988 with Corporal Clinger

and the following year with Liadett.

Jenny Pitman, who interrupted the sequence by winning the 1990 running with Wonder Man, now fields Egypt Mill Prince, who was also engaged in the Henry VIII Novices Chase.

I prefer Valfinnet since his first winning run of the season at Cheltenham appeared to hold out such great hopes for the future.

While he has been penalised 4lb for today's race, the handicapper has increased his rating to 20lb for future events.

In contrast, Easy Buck now meets Jopwani on 8lb worse terms for that three-length deficit at Ascot a fortnight ago.

Waterloo Boy, who won the Mitsubishi Shogun Tingle Creek Trophy carrying 11st 13lb last year, now has only an additional pound to carry.

However, in receipt of 10lb, Uncle Ernie will surely prove dangerous since he was threatening Remittance Man at Huntingdon recently until the last fence proved his downfall.

Incidentally, Uncle Ernie was only four lengths behind Waterloo Boy at Newbury last February at level weights.

## New series draws the rising stars

By BRIAN BEEB

THE Times is launching an exciting £24,000 hunter chase series in the new year.

The Times Rising Stars series will have eight qualifying races, starting at Towcester on February 16 and leading up to the £10,000 grand final at Worcester on April 14.

The series will give top point-to-pointers the chance to compete against hunter-chasers for prize-money considerably greater than that allowed in point-to-points.

In sponsoring the Rising Stars series, THE Times moves to the top end of the hunter chase scale after successfully promoting its restricted point-to-point championship series for six years.

The aim is to attract the best point-to-pointers in the six to eight-year-old range.

At the time of starting, horses must be qualified to run in a point-to-point, a unique condition in hunter chases.

Percy Tolly, the chairman of the Point-to-Point Owners' Association, said: "This is a development which will be welcomed by all owners, and should ensure an en-



thusiastic response to the series."

After Towcester on February 16, seven other qualifiers will be run: Sedgefield, February 23; Kelso, March 5; Bangor, March 10; Lingfield, March 19; Nottingham, March 23; Taunton, April 1; Ludlow, April 7; with the final at Worcester on April 14.

To ensure a good field for the final, which would be limited to an entry of 24 if only placed horses were eligible, any horse that has taken part in a qualifying race may enter.

Winners of these earlier races will be guaranteed a run if a ballot is necessary, and horses which finished second and third will be the last to be eliminated.

## Stephenson's death casts giant shadow on racing

By MICHAEL SEELY

A fearless point-to-point rider and amateur jockey before he took out his first full training licence in 1959, Stephenson tasted his first big-race success when Kinnmont Wullie won the 1961 Scottish National.

He was the first man to train 100 National Hunt winners in a season, saddling 114 during the 1969-70 campaign. He went on to repeat the feat six times in the next seven years.

During his career he sent out over 3,000 winners. The trainer's most important success came when The Thinker won the 1987 Cheltenham

Gold Cup. Typically, Stephenson was close to home at Hexham, where he was supervising Succeeded to win a modest three-mile chase.

He was a dynamo of restless energy. He made an unforgettable sight as he hustled round the racecourse, with a tweed cap pulled firmly down over the piercing eyes, the high-coloured features and aquiline nose.

He was somehow reminiscent of an old-time border raider about to pounce, and often the bookmakers were his intended victims.

An intensely private man, he shunned publicity. "Little fish are sweet" was his favourite saying when one of his horses had won a minor race.

He detested being quizzed about his future intentions. "Nay, lad, he used to say, 'You know me, no plans'."

Above all, Stephenson was a stockman and wheeler-dealer, running a 1,000-acre farm.

Apparently, up to within a few minutes of his death, Stephenson was still planning future campaigns for his horses.

Stephenson's nephew, Peter Cheesbrough, has been granted a temporary training licence to continue the stable operations.



Stephenson: private

Obituary, page 15

### CHEPSTOW

MANDARIN

- 12.30 Mardool.
- 1.00 Danny Harrold.
- 1.30 Sunbeam Talbot.
- 2.05 Minnehoma.
- 2.35 Capability Brown.
- 3.05 The Black Monk.
- 3.35 Aslan.

THUNDERER

- 12.30 Snowy Lane.
- 1.00 Danny Harrold.
- 1.30 Farm Week.
- 2.05 MINNEHOMA (nap).
- 2.35 Capability Brown.
- 3.05 The Black Monk.
- 3.35 Aslan.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.05 MINNEHOMA.

GOING: HEAVY

12.30 GINSTERS HANDICAP HURDLE

- 1 2519/51 HARROLD HURDLE 22 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
- 2 2103/41 SNOWY LANE 22 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
- 3 0608/03 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
- 4 0602/01 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
- 5 0602/01 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
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1.00 ARLINGTON PREMIER SERIES CHASE

- 1 0231/21 DANNY HARROLD 22 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
- 2 0111/31 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. McNeill 52
- 3 0111/31 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. Minnehoma 52
- 4 0111/31 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. Minnehoma 52
- 5 0111/31 MARDOL 24 (2.05) (S) P. Scudamore 5-12-0. S. Minnehoma 52
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## Saturday portrait: Eric Cantona, by Peter Ball

Football's rebel with  
applause rides on  
in search of his niche

With George Best, Denis Law, Mark Pearson, Johnny Morris and Norman Whiteside in their pantheon, Manchester United are used to forwards of great talent but often fiery personality. It remains to be seen whether their past experiences have prepared them for Eric Cantona, the enfant terrible of French football, who begins his United career tomorrow in the heated environment of a Manchester derby.

Cantona moved to United a week ago from Leeds, where he had quickly become a folk hero, bringing a Gallic flair to the workaday team that had won the Football League championship. Notably, he left a heartbroken support behind him.

The move to Leeds's greatest rivals only exacerbated the dismay in West Yorkshire. But as well as sublime talent, which has led to him being dubbed "the Gallic Gazza", he leaves a trail of discord in his wake from earlier days. United, with their history of welcoming maverick stars, have taken a gamble that they will provide the stage on which his undoubted talent can flourish.

As the minimal fee for his transfer, just over £1 million, suggests, it is a gamble. There are two areas of doubt, the footballer and the man. Nobody questions Cantona's ability, but there is a lingering doubt about his effectiveness, particularly in dealing with the demands English football makes of its forwards.

"After just two or three days in training, I knew we were witnessing a player of special natural talents," Howard Wilkinson wrote in his recent autobiography, adding that because of the "fundamental problem of playing styles", Cantona's chances of succeeding in English football were less than even.

A more damning conclusion came from Michel Platini, at the end of his spell as manager of France. Platini, who had restored Cantona to the national team, began to query his contribution when the chips were down, Cantona being a particular disappointment in the European championship.

Although Platini made no criticisms on the record, he reportedly told his confidants in the French football press: "He is a big player

in small matches, but a small player in big matches." Recent events suggest Wilkinson eventually came to a similar conclusion, although Alex Ferguson, his new manager, believed that Cantona was Leeds's best player in their European Cup matches with Rangers.

That may be overstating the case, but certainly he provided the only serious threat to Gorm in the second match at Elland Road, and had his finishing matched his ability to fashion chances for himself in that game, there is little doubt that he would now be the toast of Leeds, rather than carrying the can for their poor run.

But that aside, there were undoubtedly footballing reasons for Wilkinson's decision. Although 6ft, Cantona is slimly built and his

shot on target as they went through the motions at half pace, but there were moments when Hughes and Cantona looked to be on the same wavelength, something which many of Hughes's previous partners searched for in vain over long periods.

But if the jury is still out on Cantona the footballer, there is hardly more than one opinion about Cantona the man, particularly in the conservative, often unimaginative world of professional football. "Il est fou," was the immediate response of three French journalists who knew him from different periods during his career in France, a spell littered with rows, fights and suspensions.

With his dark, brooding looks, arrogance and volatile temperament, he is football's James Dean, or, as a Frenchman, perhaps an Alain Delon character, all jeans and black leather, riding moodily on a motorcycle through the streets of his native Marseille. In English football, players who admire Rambo are not unusual; players who admire Rimbaud and write poetry are likely to be regarded with slack-jawed incomprehension. Even in French football, they are likely to be looked at askance.

Cantona, though, sometimes looks as if he has dedicated himself to living out Rimbaud's surrealism and alienation. At only 26, he has had eight clubs (not counting his short period on trial with Sheffield Wednesday) in as many years. He began sedately enough, with Auxerre, returning there for a second spell after a brief sojourn at the second division club, Martigues. But from then on his troubles came thick and fast.

In 1988 there was a year-long suspension from the national team for describing Henri Michel, the manager, as a bag of excrement; there were fights with team-mates at Montpellier and Auxerre; at Marseille, he was suspended for throwing his shirt on the ground during a friendly.

Perhaps most famous of all was his experience at Nîmes, his last club before he arrived in England. Suspended for a month for throwing the ball at the referee, his appearance before a French football association disciplinary panel has gone into popular folklore. As sentence was passed, Cantona passed his own judgment: "Idiot". Asked to repeat the point, he



ILLUSTRATION: STEVE MARTIN

walked up to each of them in turn and screamed "Idiot". The ban of one month was doubled, and he promptly announced his retirement, to be rescued initially by Sheffield Wednesday.

That failed to come to fruition, as Cantona walked out in high dudgeon when Trevor Francis, the club's manager, wanted to extend his trial period. "A little problem blew up," Cantona explained in a familiar phrase.

By comparison, things were quiet at Elland Road. Initially, unlikely as it appears, it seemed as if the enfant terrible had found his spiritual home among the dour Yorkshiremen, while his wife and

son settled happily after all the upheaval in France.

He played a bit-part, but a significant one, in Leeds's run-in to the championship last season, scoring three goals and lighting up Elland Road with flashes of bravura. The supporters fell in thrall to his skill and brooding presence — chants of "Ooh aah, Cantona" soon became the norm at Elland Road — and when, at the championship celebration, he told the crowd, "I don't know why I love you, but I do," there was no doubt the feeling was reciprocated.

He began this season in style, with three goals against Liverpool in the season's pipe-opener, the

Charity Shield, but, as Wilkinson feared, his ability to function in the rough and tumble of the English league came increasingly into question.

In the end, he could not achieve it, and the parting of the ways came quickly. Will it be any better at Old Trafford, where a combination of Cantona and Ferguson looks combustible?

As the Manchester press corps knows to its cost, the United manager burns on a short fuse at times, and although usually the storm rapidly blows itself out, it is questionable whether Cantona will wait long enough to discover that.

Other things also leave doubts. "I lived in France with the same pressure as Gascoigne," he said when he arrived at Leeds. "Football is my life but I needed to live a normal existence outside the game." He is moving into the most highly pressured environment in English football, which does not bode well.

The next few weeks should be a fascinating time for observers, but first Eric the Gaul has to get a place in the team. Ferguson will not decide on his line-up until tomorrow, but it will be a surprise if Cantona starts the game. One wonders how long he would accept that restricted role.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

Newlove lifts Rovers  
into cup contention

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PAUL Newlove is something of a novelty these days: a second division player with a growing international pedigree.

Newlove's place in the centre, instinct for being in the right place, and strength in the tackle marks his quality above that of most others in the second division, a point that will not be lost on St Helens in tomorrow's Regal Trophy second-round tie against Featherstone Rovers.

Newlove, winner of eight senior caps since becoming Great Britain's youngest representative in 1989, stands three tries short of a century in all rugby league, a remarkable feat for a player aged 21.

Newlove and Owen Simpson have scored 26 tries between them this season. "I don't feel I lose out. We strive for a standard that would not be out of place in the first division. We can spread it wide, or keep it tight within the forwards," Newlove said.

Under the innovative and uncompromising eye of their recent Australian appointment, Steve Martin, the for-

mer North Sydney coach, Featherstone lead the second division, having lost only twice in 11 league matches.

St Helens, deprived of the injured Jonathan Griffiths and the suspended Alan Hunte, may lack the necessary incisiveness at half back and on the wing to avoid a cup upset at Post Office Road. Much may hinge on the driving runs of Kevin Ward, who starts a game for the Lancashire club for the first time in five weeks.

Leigh could struggle to contain London Crusaders. Wigan have the simpler task at Hull Kingston Rovers, while Halifax may find Hull at home too convincing.

This afternoon's confrontation between Warrington and Bradford Northern is a rerun of the 1991 final, which the Cheshire club won 12-2. Bradford are likely to be without Deryck Fox, their scrum half.

At Neil Rudd, of Nottingham City, has been banned for ten matches for a high tackle on Andy Fletcher, the Barrow wing, last month.

## ATHLETICS

## Harder task for Oxford

SIMON Baines attempts to retain the University cross-country title today when he leads an Oxford University team which is unlikely to dominate the men's race on Wimbledon Common in the way it did last year (David Powell writes). Last time, Oxford finished sixth in the first seven, but they have a young team of eight today.

Baines has been in form, finishing fourth in the Mike Sully cross country at Bristol. Oxford may need his victory to repeat last year's team triumph. "It is going to be closer this year," said Richard Collier, of Oxford, who ran for the

British junior squad at the world championships in Boston last season. The experienced Cambridge team is stronger this year and includes Michael Byers, a Canadian junior international.

This will be the 102nd match between the universities. Oxford have 52 wins and Cambridge 49. The women compete for the seventeenth time. Cambridge have nine wins and Oxford seven.

**MEN:** Cambridge: I. Hargrave, C. Addison, C. Wood, D. Bond, M. Byers, M. Johnson, D. Clark, Oxford: M. Baines, R. Collier, J. McAlister, E. Brown, M. Waller, J. Wood, J. Nash.

**WOMEN:** Cambridge: E. Coleman, C. Forrester, J. Allen, H. Morris, A. Norman, J. Bennett, Oxford: J. Hemmings, H. Holmes, N. Karson, M. Myers, P. Lopez, H. Morrison.

## TV man who tucks into all-round diet

With *Ski Sunday* upon us once more, Jasper Rees examines what makes David Vine the solid prop of BBC sports' programmes

HIS hobby is bricklaying. If he has a catchphrase, it would be something not very catchy, like "and look at that magnificent tuck". Neither puppet nor stand-up impersonator ever lampoon him. David Vine has been anchoring and commentating at the BBC since 1966 and yet you can't quite pin down his appeal.

His heavily-speckled face and burly shoulders are part of the national furniture, his distinctively burled voice part of the soundtrack of Sunday afternoons in winter. Commenting between the fastest and slowest athletic pursuits known to man, stopping off in between at the smartest, he has done his bit to turn some sports still regarded as small in journalism into big ratings-pullers in television. So he must have something.

Whatever it is, the BBC liked it from the start. Two producers were scouring the country in search of someone to host the nascent BBC 2's *Sports Scene*. They arrived in Plymouth, "the last port of call," says their eventual quarry, whom they found fronting and producing a sports programme for Westward TV, the region's commercial station. Because BBC2 could not be received in the southwest, he combined both jobs until a *Daily*

*Mail* critic rumbled the moonlighter: from then on, he came under Auntie's wing.

"He has terrific professionalism," Jim Reeside, executive producer of *Ski Sunday*, says. "In circumstances which most others would find untenable, he will still deliver an interview or a piece to camera or commentary. If we've only got time for one take, you'll get what you want in one take."

"He's got a depth to his voice. Like David Coleman and Alan Weekes and Harry Carpenter and all the other great voices of sport the BBC has, he's very articulate."

"Skiing can be quite boring. If the winner comes from No. 1, David Vine has to find 20 different ways of saying the same thing when the other 19 come down."

There is a world of difference between the green baize at the Guild Hall, Preston, and the men's downhill at Val d'Isère, but Vine was competing at the one until late on Sunday night, and will be commentating at the other

this weekend. Throw in the show jumping, the Olympic weightlifting and the Commonwealth bowls and for his age — he was born in 1935 — he qualifies as the hardest working broadcaster at BBC Sport. One winter he flew 31 times in 13 weeks.

In the 1970s, he was, if anything, even more ubiquitous. There was scarcely an outside broadcast which didn't have Vine out in front of it — *Supersports*, *Jeux Sans*



Vine: elderly fan base

*Frontières*, the *Eurovision Song Contest* and *Miss World*, not to mention *Grandstand*, *Quizball* and *A Question of Sport*. He could turn his hand to anything — "it's the same sort of technique whether you're talking about a skier coming down a mountain or a bit of 36-24-38 walking down a platform," is his distinctly non-politically correct claim, though he bristles at the suggestion that one or two sports he commentates on are not necessarily areas of expertise. "I used to play bowls," he says with a hint of pique, which is more than can be said for his time on skis or in the saddle.

"How good is Harry Carpenter fighting Frank Brunno?" is his stock rejoinder. "I have ridden, but very little. I have skied, but I don't ski. What's the point? You could go out there and sod's law you turn an ankle on the first day."

Perhaps his appeal has something to do with the sports with which he is associated. They are all safe even skiing, though physically dangerous, is a gentlemanly sport. There is no bodily contact, little money-grubbing and, depending on your view of what Clive James once called the downhillers' "multi-coloured condoms",

participants from all three sports are presentably attired. Vine says he has a big fan base among the nation's grandmothers. Perhaps they see in this safety-first non-skier a kindred spirit.

"People have got rather fed up with the aggro in sport," he says, and it is with them that he has found his niche. In the cause of right thinking and good manners, he can turn on the aggro himself. He once had the temerity to ask John McEnroe, who after his prize-of-the-weekend explosion at Wimbledon only begrudgingly agreed to a BBC interview, "What right do you have to call anyone an incompetent fool?" It was a blow for decency. McEnroe said he'd never talk to Vine again.

In fact, there is one man who hangs on David Vine's every word at the beginning of the *Ski Sunday* series. "The head of the Austrian tourist board listens with bated breath at Val d'Isère. If I say it's good, he knows they are going to get a great season with skiers coming in from England. If I say it's horrible, I can kill his business. It's a nice position to be in."

Almost as nice as being in the Alps every weekend, where you will find him again this winter, pointing out that magnificent tuck.

The Khans  
eliminate  
the Britons

Jahangir Khan, the defending champion, will face Jansher Khan, the world champion, in the final of the Pakistan squash tournament, after sweeping aside their British opponents in Karachi yesterday.

Jahangir scored a straight games victory over Simon Parke 15-8, 15-7, 15-10, but Jansher surprisingly dropped the first game before demolishing Peter Marshall 12-15, 15-12, 15-6.

## Upwardly mobile

Ice Skating: Powerful free dancing lifted the British title holders, Lisa and John Dunn, three places to a sixth position in the world junior championships in Seoul, won by the Russians, Svitlana and Sakinovsky, yesterday. They were thirteenth last year.

## Jones's despair

Rugby league: Mark Jones the Hull prop, yesterday lost all hope of playing for Wales against France in Perpignan tomorrow week when a disciplinary committee in Leeds rejected his appeal against a six-match ban.

## Boone advances

Rackets: Willie Boone, the No. 2 seed, reached the semi-finals of the Lacoste British amateur championship with a victory by 15-2, 15-0, 15-10 against Guy Barker.

## Frankfurt again

Tennis: The international federation confirmed in London yesterday that the 1994 Federation Cup will be played in Frankfurt for the third consecutive year.

## Treasurer leaves

Rugby union: Glamour Griffiths has resigned as treasurer of the Welsh RU, claiming that he had been placed in "an intolerable position in so far as being able to effectively execute my duties and responsibilities".

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Atkins plans  
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Liverpool defeat



## FA official heavily criticised

## Kelly defends his court statements supporting Blissett

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

GRAHAM Kelly had no regrets yesterday about the part he played in Gary Blissett's acquittal from a charge of causing grievous bodily harm to a fellow professional. On Thursday, Blissett, a Brentford striker, was cleared of "causing grievous bodily harm" by a jury at the Old Bailey, after Kelly, who was charged with perjury, testified that Blissett had been involved in an "ordinary aerial challenge".

It brought an angry response from officials at Torquay, with whom Uzzell has been unable to resume a playing career almost certainly ended by the incident. Mike Bateson, the Torquay chairman, said: "Kelly's remarks that he could watch four games a week and see 200 such tackles was the most ludicrous statement I have ever heard. It is almost an encouragement to players to behave recklessly."

"Kelly has given the impression that football is the equivalent of a bar-room brawl. But clubs like ours spend an enormous amount of time, effort and money trying to attract the general public."

Kelly has brought the game into disrepute.

The FA, however, will probably ignore any complaints officially levelled at its chief executive on the basis that someone cannot be charged for answers given when questioned under oath.

Kelly said yesterday: "I have no regrets and have had no second thoughts about my role in the court case. It would have been simple for me to take the easy way out and not become involved but I did not do that. I believe I did the right thing and I feel very sorry for Gary Blissett that this had to come to court."

"I could have said that because of my position with the FA this was too delicate an issue to become involved with, and that it was not a good idea for me to be put on the spot and possibly take the opposite stance from a referee in court. But I did not because I believed that I should do the right thing."

Arthur Smith, the match referee, who sent Blissett off, declined to comment. But Lester Shapter, formerly a leading referee from Torquay, said that Kelly had undermined referees' authority.

"I am absolutely gutted, not only for John Uzzell but for football," Shapter said. "Mr

Kelly had an ideal opportunity to help rid professional football in this country of one of the biggest ills in the game today — the elbow in the face. He did not take it."

"As a result of all this, referees will have lost the credibility they deserve. Having heard the verdict and Kelly's evidence, players will think that it's quite legal to go and challenge for the ball in the way Blissett did. It is surprising, because in 1987, when I was president of the Football League Referees and Linesmen's Association, the theme of my speech to our conference in Torquay was 'The Arm and the Law'. Graham Kelly spoke on the subject and condemned the illegal use of the elbow."

Another contradiction was noted by Peter Willis, a spokesman for the Referees' Association. "I would refer everybody to the fact that the FA did find that, under the laws of the game, the player concerned did commit an offence because, after its own enquiry, the FA subsequently suspended him for three games," he said.

Meanwhile, Blissett, who has been supported by Brentford, leads their attack in a first division match at Birmingham City today.

## Atkins plans fresh Cambridge style

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

IAN Atkins was yesterday appointed the new manager of Cambridge United. Aged 35, Atkins played for Shrewsbury Town, Sunderland, Everton, Ipswich Town and Birmingham City. He also managed Colchester United in their GM Vauxhall Conference days and was, until Thursday, No. 2 to Terry Cooper at Birmingham.

He will be in charge of Cambridge for the first time today when United are at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers in a first division fixture. Atkins's brief is to keep Cambridge in that division but he does not intend to emulate the direct football which brought notoriety to John Beck, his predecessor.

"The long ball was successful for John," Atkins said. "But it is not my cup of tea. I will be working on passing in training but to change things too drastically would be disastrous."

Atkins has registered as a player, but has not named himself in today's squad. His appointment "shattered" Gary Johnson, who had acted as caretaker following Beck's dismissal six weeks ago and led the team to a Coca-Cola Cup win against Premier League Oldham Athletic on Tuesday night.

Although Johnson, said that

he felt "badly let down" Atkins hoped that "Gary would stay on at the club". Johnson will decide over the weekend.

Reg Smart, the Cambridge chairman, said that while Johnson had done "a good job", Atkins's additional experience gave him the edge. Smart hopes that Atkins — articulate, personable and a devotee of sophisticated football — will repair the damage done to the club's image by Beck.

Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, said that, within the past fortnight, he had turned down offers totalling £6.5 million from two of his players — David Hirst and Chris Waddle — from Manchester United and Toulon respectively.

Malcolm Crosby's position as Sunderland manager looks less secure than ever after an argument with Bob Murray, the chairman.

Crystal Palace have pulled out of a £150,000 deal to sign the Yugoslav international defender, Vujadin Staniskovic. He has returned home after a week on trial with Palace. A fee was agreed with Partizan Belgrade last month, but the Palace manager, Steve Coppell, said: "It was asking a lot for a Yugoslavian to come in and do the business in our position."

## Liverpool defeat stands

LIVERPOOL'S hopes of a European Cup Winners' Cup reprieve were dashed yesterday by FIFA, the world's governing body, which decided that the registration of Mikhail Russeyev, the Spartak Moscow player at the centre of the eligibility dispute, should be accepted "even though no transfer certificate was issued."

Russeyev appeared in the first two rounds of the competition, including the 6-2 aggregate win over Liverpool, without international clearance.

He was transferred from the German club, Oldenburg, during the summer and the Russian federation did not

receive a clearance certificate before allowing him to play. Although Uefa admitted that the Russians were guilty of a "clear violation" of FIFA rules, they were bound by FIFA's decision. Spartak play Feyenoord in the quarter-finals.

Peter Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, said that his club would consider an appeal and the directors would have discussions over the weekend. "We are somewhat surprised at the decision as the player was evidently not registered in accordance with the rules and regulations," he said. "This might possibly have serious implications for any breaches of the rules in the future."

## Fifa avoids foreign player issue

Zurich: Fifa, football's world governing body, yesterday sidestepped calls for a lifting of restrictions on the number of foreign players in European leagues. But Fifa will set up a working group to look more closely at the issue.

There have been calls to end the Italian situation, where highly-paid players are sitting out matches in the stands. But Sepp Blatter, the Fifa general secretary, said: "We decided that this was a matter for the national associations and we would not interfere in it."

Fifa decided to allow video and television evidence to be used in disciplinary hearings and appeals.

Fifa also rejected a plea by Milan Panic, the prime minister of Yugoslavia, for a ban on Yugoslavians' participation in the qualifying competition of the World Cup to be lifted. Blatter said: "We have unfortunately to abide by the United Nations sanctions on Yugoslavia and have reluctantly to turn down this request."

Crystal Palace v Sheffield Wednesday, promoted from the youth league, keep their places in a first division league in the first Premier League match at Selhurst Park and only its second of a disappointing season. Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, was travelling in charge of Palace before the arrival of Staniskovic, who conceded that with Palace second bottom, his position is precarious. Penetration, previously of Palace, plays in central defence for United because Gary is injured. Gage returns at right back and Vasey, a goalkeeper, right back on loan from Oxford this week, is in the squad.

Leeds v Nottingham Forest, Brian Clough, briefly manager of Leeds during the 1970s, could do with his Forest side ending United's 31-match unbeaten league run at Elland Road. Lee Chapman, the Leeds centre forward, who previously played for Forest, will have different ideas on his 33rd birthday. Webb returns to the Forest midfield in place of Black but Leeds must decide whether to gamble on Baby's fitness or retain Rostie in defence. Forest are buoyed by the midweek Coca-Cola Cup win



Bright future: O'Neill is looking forward to a place in the Football League

## O'Neill sure of his real goal

BY WALTER GAMMIE

WYCOMBE Wanderers and Martin O'Neill, their manager, make no secret of the fact that they are ready to move on to higher things. For once, there is nothing hollow about such claims. After selling Loakes Park, with its sloping pitch and memories of heroic cup battles, Wycombe have become, in their third season at their model ground, Adams Park, the leading club in non-League football.

That is why O'Neill, a volatile Irish mix of disconcerting confidence and self-deprecating whimsy, is unapologetic when he says the glamour tie of the FA Cup second round, that between Wycombe and West Bromwich Albion tomorrow, counts for comparatively little.

"Unlike most non-League clubs who are absolutely desperate for an FA Cup run to keep the club alive, for us it's no more than a fantastic diversion from trying to get out of the Vauxhall Conference," O'Neill said.

"We welcome the exposure



FA CUP

and the boys will take the ephemeral glory if they can. That, aside, if we reach the fifth round or quarter-finals or whatever and lose out on the Vauxhall Conference, I'm afraid I'd commit suicide."

O'Neill is ambitious. "I want to be up there with the Dalglishes and Southsides," he said. "I played against them and I'd like to be in there managing a big team. In a couple of seasons I hope I will be and I know I'd relish it. It's not sounding big headed, I hope."

Eight of the 13 players who helped Wycombe to an important win at Altrincham last Saturday, were at the club when O'Neill took over. He has kept a settled side and instilled confidence.

"There are umpteen ways to play this game if you stay within the rules, and who is to say what is right or wrong. I used to be a dribbler with the ball and I like players taking people on in certain areas of the pitch. I like to give players a chance to express themselves."

Steve Guppy and Dave Carroll tease defences down the flanks and typical of O'Neill's work has been the transformation of Simon Stapleton, a midfield player.

"He used to break clear and miss goals galore," O'Neill said. "I didn't have to look and see who it was when the ball used to go flying into the stand and the crowd roared. I knew it was him."

"I told him not to panic, just think as if he was going to score. I said to him if he scored 12 goals this season, he'd be worth £500,000. Now I've had to play him at left back because he's already scored seven and there's five months of the season left."

O'Neill's self-belief is clearly infectious and when he says he will send his team out to "enjoy themselves" against Ossen Ardiles' footballing side, you know that they will do just that.

## MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE

Today

Coventry v Ipswich  
Coventry are unchanged but could name McGrath as a substitute, five weeks after keyhole surgery on his knee. Ipswich, with a string of draws but no Premier League defeats to their name, are without Palmer and Williams in the midfield.

Middlesbrough v Blackburn  
Stuart Ripley, the winger who joined Middlesbrough from Blackburn for £3 million this summer, returns to his home town and the club where he was for so long a favourite. After a bright start, Middlesbrough have won only one of their past ten games and are struggling for the remainder of the season, O'Hanlon, the striker, has been injured for a long time. Blackburn, who have won only one of their past ten games and are struggling for the remainder of the season, O'Hanlon, the striker, has been injured for a long time.

QPR v Oldham  
Already without Hallworth, the striker, who has been injured for a long time, Blackburn, who have won only one of their past ten games and are struggling for the remainder of the season, O'Hanlon, the striker, has been injured for a long time.

Leeds v Nottingham Forest  
Brian Clough, briefly manager of Leeds during the 1970s, could do with his Forest side ending United's 31-match unbeaten league run at Elland Road. Lee Chapman, the Leeds centre forward, who previously played for Forest, will have different ideas on his 33rd birthday. Webb returns to the Forest midfield in place of Black but Leeds must decide whether to gamble on Baby's fitness or retain Rostie in defence. Forest are buoyed by the midweek Coca-Cola Cup win

against Tottenham but badly need points to escape from the bottom of the table.

Sheff Wed v Aston Villa  
Ron Atkinson can expect a hot reception on his return to the club he walked out on to join Villa almost 18 months ago. Atkinson has fitness doubts about Parker and Houghton in his midfield and is again without Teale, the player he refers to as "my John Wayne", in central defence. Barmby is likely to deputise against Wolves in the first game of the season, O'Hanlon, the striker, has been injured for a long time.

Southampton v Arsenal  
Perry Groves became Newcastle's first signing as Arsenal manager when he paid Colchester United £750,000 for his services more than six years ago. This summer, Graham sold Groves on to Southampton for £750,000 and the winger begins on the bench against his former club today. Southampton are unchanged for the fifth time and looking for a fifth successive game

without defeat. Arsenal have lost their past two in the League. While Graham has reservations about Linper, his winger, so Ian Wright, the Southampton manager, is not always overjoyed with his wide man, Le Tissier. Either could win the match though.

Tottenham v Chelsea  
How will Chelsea — who have won seven of their past ten matches — cope without the suspended Mark Hufferd in their attack? Tottenham, whose defence will be happy about the absence of a forward who has scored ten goals in the past ten games, are without Allan, Duns, Gray, Sedgeley and Howells. Watson and Barmby are expected to start and Campbell, 18 and a graduate from the FA's national school at Lillieshall is in the squad for the first time.

Tomorrow  
Man Utd v Man City  
David Cantello, who has been in charge of Leeds last week, starts his 11th Manchester derby on the pitch or the bench in the United v Man City match. The United manager, who has injury worries about Robinson, Ince and Sharpe, will decide whether to leave left-out but the indicators are that Cantello will begin on the bench, with Hughes and McClair in the attack, Ian Wright, of City, will have a late fitness test.

ICE HOCKEY  
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NL): Boston Bruins 4, Minnesota North Stars 3; Detroit Red Wings 2, New York Rangers 1; Chicago Blackhawks 2, Philadelphia Flyers 1; Quebec Nordiques 2, St. Louis Blues 1; Los Angeles Kings 3, Pittsburgh Penguins 2; Hartford Whalers 7, San Jose Sharks 5; Vancouver Canucks 4, Edmonton Oilers 1.

ICE SKATING  
SEDLA: World junior championship: 1. M. Weiss (CZ), 2. M. Weiss (CZ), 3. K. Kulev (RUS), 4. S. Kulev (RUS), 5. S. Kulev (RUS), 6. S. Kulev (RUS), 7. S. Kulev (RUS), 8. S. Kulev (RUS), 9. S. Kulev (RUS), 10. S. Kulev (RUS).

COULMBS and B. Mazzoni (CAN), 4.5.

RACKETS  
QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Lacoste British tennis championships: Queen's: 1. M. J. Smith (GB), 2. J. Smith (GB), 3. J. Smith (GB), 4. J. Smith (GB), 5. J. Smith (GB), 6. J. Smith (GB), 7. J. Smith (GB), 8. J. Smith (GB), 9. J. Smith (GB), 10. J. Smith (GB).

SNOOKER  
DONCASTER: Coals World Matchplay championship: First round: S. Davis (ENG) 4-0, A. Hoggan (CAN) 0-4, M. Clark (ENG) 4-0, N. Bond (ENG) 4-0.

SQUASH  
KARACHI: Pakistan Open championship: 1. M. J. Smith (GB), 2. J. Smith (GB), 3. J. Smith (GB), 4. J. Smith (GB), 5. J. Smith (GB), 6. J. Smith (GB), 7. J. Smith (GB), 8. J. Smith (GB), 9. J. Smith (GB), 10. J. Smith (GB).

TENNIS  
PERTH: Australia ATP men's challenger tournament: Quarter-finals: S. Touss (GB) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; C. Bailey (GB) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

## TENNIS

## Strong prepare to wilt in the heat of the Davis Cup

FROM SIMON BARNES IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

THE Davis Cup is the ultimate test of nerve, somebody once said to me. I was inclined to pooh-pooh this at the time, but now, with the final begun and the United States bizarrely taking on Switzerland, I am forced to rethink. Mental strength is the key to most sporting events, but this counts double in the Davis Cup.

Most Brits do not have a clear idea about the Davis Cup, for the very good reason that Britain has not been a force in it for years. But up at the sharp end, this competition is a matter of numbing intensity, and it cannot fail to inspire a momentous reaction. Whether that reaction is fight or flight is something that rather depends on the nature of the player involved.

"Sure, we should win easily on paper," Andre Agassi said. "But this is the Davis Cup." The United States went into the final with nothing less than the Dream Team of tennis. If the opposition seeks hope, it can look only to its own worthy qualities, and to the imponderable nature of this extraordinary tournament.

The United States have Agassi, John Courier, Pete Sampras and John McEnroe. The Swiss have Marc Rosset (he did win the Olympic tournament, but that is as fine a way of rising without trace as tennis can offer) and Jakob Hlasek, who is a naturalised Czechoslovak. "Davis Cup is nothing about the record, or the rankings on the computer," Hlasek said. "We never thought we would be here — what have we to lose?" He was asked what he thought of this cowboy-conscious town: "As a boy, when I watched Westerns, I was always on the side of the Indians."

The question that remains is whether the imponderables of the Davis Cup will transform this final into the battle of the Little Big Horn. It comes down to responsibility. Normally, a tennis player is responsible to nobody but himself. This is what makes tennis players rather singular characters. But in the Davis Cup they must shed their singularity and explore other aspects of their personalities.

There are team games and individual games: there are athletes who prefer the delights of shared effort and those who prefer the loneliness of solo competition. There are team misfits who say they should have been golfers, and there are individual players

who, at the critical moment, lack the nerve to pull ahead of the pack and win the big one.

But some of these individual sports hold team competitions. Suddenly, the lone athlete is responsible not for himself or herself, but for the team — for the nation, if you prefer. This happens in the Ryder Cup: some golfers blossom under its stresses, others shrivel. Faldo is never the same force in team competition: Ballesteros seems incapable of losing.

In three-day eventing, the same stresses affect the riders. The British team went to pieces at the last Olympic Games, throwing away the medal chances in a fit of timidity.

And in the Davis Cup, the pressures, the responsibilities — always a novelty for the lone athlete — can be utterly destructive. Sampras spoke of the last time he played a Davis Cup final: "It was probably the most devastating two losses I have ever had. It was my first time in Davis Cup. It was awful out there. I hope it never happens again."

That was last year, when the United States played France. Sampras lost both his singles matches, to Henri Leconte and Guy Forget. France's victory was wildly improbable, to say the least. A Swiss victory would require another serving of that same lethal cocktail of terror and inspiration.

"I've seen people rise above their capabilities," Agassi said. "And I've seen my capabilities lowered considerably."

Agassi can say this with some confidence. He is renowned — at least, he was pre-Wimbledon — for the fragility of his temperament. But in Davis Cup tennis, before this final began, he has won 18 singles and lost only four. Sampras, with three wins and three defeats in singles, has been relegated to the doubles, which take place today. He has the support of the redoubtable McEnroe who, with 41 wins and eight defeats in singles, and 17 wins and two defeats in doubles, is one of the finest Davis Cup players in history.

"Davis Cup can do that to you," Sampras said after his humiliation last year. "I didn't know what to expect, and it was a pretty awful experience. But this is my fifth time. I'm more or less used to the whole experience, so I think I'll do OK."

Today, Sampras will learn whether "I think" is good enough. As for the Swiss, they continue to learn whether "I hope" is enough when you play the Dream Team.

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Pessoa wins speed class once more

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BORDEAUX

RODRIGO Pessoa of Brazil, aged 20, won the opening speed class for the second World Cup show here yesterday.

Last year, riding the same horse, Loro Piana Colonel, he won by just under two seconds. Yesterday the Brazilian's precocious talent helped him finish 2.22 seconds ahead of the runner-up, Philippe Rozier of France, on Watti Satomi. On both occasions Pessoa was the youngest in the class.

Robert Smith, of Britain, took the early lead in the 63rd round on Susan Bond's 12-year-old mare, Lucille. But Rozier, followed by his compatriot, Edouard Couperie on Quentay II, and the Belgian, Eric Wauters, on Watti Satomi, recorded faster times to push Smith down to fifth place.

Pessoa, who will ride his top horse, Special Envoy, in the World Cup qualifier tomorrow, did not know what time he had to beat when he entered the arena. "I just went as fast as I could," he said.

Horse and rider have been bred to show-jump. Pessoa's father, Nelson, is Brazil's most experienced show jumper with 52 Nations Cup performances to his credit. Rodrigo first competed internationally at Hickstead when aged nine.

Loro Piana Colonel is an eight-year-old stallion by the top Dutch jumping stallion, Nimmerdorp. Pessoa, aged with his father in Belgium, bought the stallion from Argentina last May.

RESULTS: Prix Office Du Tourisme: 1. Loro Piana Colonel (P Pessoa, B), 2. Watti Satomi (P Rozier, F), 3. Quentay II (E Couperie, F), 4. Lucille (R Smith, GB), 5. Special Envoy (P Pessoa, B), 6. Watti Satomi (P Rozier, F), 7. Quentay II (E Couperie, F), 8. Lucille (R Smith, GB), 9. Special Envoy (P Pessoa, B), 10. Watti Satomi (P Rozier, F).

## YACHTING

## Straggler rounds Horn

Cape Horn: Peter Phillips and his crew on Rhone-Poulenc, the last of the British Steel Challenge yachts, at last raised a toast to Cape Horn yesterday, after being delayed by repairs (Barry Pickthall writes).

Dubbed "Yawning Cape Horn" by other teams who were becalmed here earlier this week, conditions yesterday were perfect as Rhone-Poulenc rounded in bright sunshine shortly after 1000 GMT. "It's a big achievement to get to the Horn and we are pleased to have made it," Phillips said as his yacht cut

through the southern ocean swell in a welter of spray at better than nine knots.

Although Rhone-Poulenc is five days and 800 miles behind Nuclear Electric, the leading yacht, on this second, Rio to Hobart, stage of the race around the world, Phillips said his crew was not

downhearted. POSITIONS at 1500 GMT yesterday with miles to Hobart: 1. Nuclear Electric (J Chantrelle), 4,887.2; 2. Commercial Union (R McWhorter), 4,886.3; 3. Coopers & Lybrand (V Green), 4,728.4; 4. Hobart Laser (P Green), 4,726.5; 5. British Steel II (R Taylor), 4,707.4; 6. Heston Island (A Donovan), 4,700.7; 7. Fide of Tessa (J MacGillivray), 4,511.1; 8. Group 4 (M Gilling), 4,482.3; 9. InterCity (P Kelly), 3,234.1; 10. Rhone-Poulenc (P Phillips), 3,230.8.

Positions supplied by British Telecom.

## FOR THE RECORD

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): New Orleans Saints 22, Atlanta Falcons 14.

## BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CLUBS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Group A: Juventus Basketball (ITA) 82, Limoges 76; Marseille 101, AS Packer 86; Group B: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group C: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group D: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group E: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group F: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group G: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group H: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group I: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group J: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group K: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group L: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group M: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group N: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group O: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group P: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group Q: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group R: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group S: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group T: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group U: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group V: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group W: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group X: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group Y: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group Z: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AA: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AB: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AC: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AD: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AE: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AF: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AG: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AH: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AI: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AJ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AK: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AL: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AM: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AN: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AO: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AP: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AQ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AR: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AS: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AT: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AU: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AV: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AW: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AX: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AY: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group AZ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BA: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BB: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BC: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BD: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BE: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BF: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BG: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BH: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BI: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BJ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BK: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BL: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BM: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BN: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BO: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BP: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BQ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BR: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BS: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BT: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BU: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BV: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BW: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BX: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BY: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group BZ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CA: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CB: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CC: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CD: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CE: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CF: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CG: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CH: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CI: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CJ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CK: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CL: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CM: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CN: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CO: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CP: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CQ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CR: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CS: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CT: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CU: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CV: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CW: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CX: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CY: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group CZ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DA: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DB: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DC: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DD: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DE: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DF: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DG: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DH: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DI: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DJ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DK: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DL: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DM: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DN: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DO: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DP: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DQ: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DR: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DS: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DT: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DU: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DV: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DW: AS Packer 86, AS Packer 86; Group DX: AS Packer 86



117th Manchester derby may start without United's new £1.2m signing

## Ferguson undecided over Cantona

By Louise Taylor

WILL he play or won't he? Even Alex Ferguson is not sure whether to include Eric Cantona from the start of the 117th Manchester derby at Old Trafford tomorrow or seat him on the substitutes' bench. The Manchester United manager, who signed Cantona from Leeds United for £1.2 million last week, said yesterday: "I think I have made up my mind what to do about Cantona but I'll keep tossing it over in my mind until Sunday."

Provided Ferguson sticks to plan A, it is expected that Mark Hughes and Brian McClair will be in attacking tandem, with Cantona on the sidelines. If that frustrates the red segments of Old Trafford it will not stand in the way of some raucous celebrations should United beat City.

This morning, United stand sixth in the Premier League, nine points adrift of Norwich City, the leaders, while Peter Reid's Manchester City are eighth, two points further back.

Ferguson, though, is planning to take over at the top. "We are not out of the championship race by any means," he said. "Only Norwich have maintained any degree of consistency while the other sides, like ourselves, have all had their ups and downs."

Ferguson was angry at revived reports that Bryan Robson, his captain, was poised to become manager of Sunderland. He dismissed them as "rubbish". Ferguson said that rather than returning to his native North-East, where he was brought up as a Newcastle United supporter, Robson, who has started just four matches this season, would be remaining at Old Trafford to lead United's latest title challenge.

The former England captain is now 35, his contract runs out at the end of the season and he remains prone to injuries, but, like Ferguson, he is still committed to winning a championship for the club for 26 years.

A late fitness test permitting, Robson hopes to start in front of the television cameras tomorrow, and Ferguson said: "I have waited a long time to get Bryan Robson and Lee Sharpe back in the side and they make a hell of a difference. They are a very valuable duo to us. Many teams have key areas and they are part of ours. Bryan controls the shape of the side and he has so much



Splendid isolation: Blake, the Kingstonian goalkeeper who was struck by a coin in the last match, stands alone against Peterborough yesterday

|               | P  | W  | D  | L  | F  | Apts |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|------|
| Blackburn     | 17 | 11 | 3  | 3  | 32 | 36   |
| Blackburn     | 17 | 8  | 7  | 2  | 26 | 12   |
| Aston Villa   | 17 | 9  | 2  | 6  | 22 | 17   |
| Chelsea       | 17 | 7  | 7  | 3  | 26 | 18   |
| Leeds         | 17 | 8  | 4  | 5  | 24 | 19   |
| Man Utd       | 17 | 7  | 6  | 4  | 18 | 12   |
| QPR           | 17 | 7  | 5  | 5  | 22 | 17   |
| Man City      | 17 | 7  | 4  | 6  | 24 | 17   |
| Liverpool     | 17 | 7  | 4  | 6  | 20 | 24   |
| Leeds         | 17 | 5  | 10 | 2  | 22 | 19   |
| Coventry      | 17 | 6  | 6  | 5  | 21 | 22   |
| Tottenham     | 17 | 5  | 7  | 5  | 17 | 22   |
| Leeds Utd     | 17 | 4  | 7  | 6  | 15 | 19   |
| Middlesbrough | 17 | 5  | 6  | 6  | 27 | 21   |
| Sheff Wed     | 17 | 4  | 8  | 5  | 19 | 20   |
| Sheff Utd     | 17 | 4  | 7  | 6  | 15 | 19   |
| Oldham Ath    | 17 | 4  | 6  | 7  | 17 | 23   |
| Sheff Utd     | 17 | 4  | 4  | 9  | 13 | 21   |
| Everton       | 17 | 3  | 6  | 8  | 19 | 26   |
| Wolverhampton | 17 | 1  | 9  | 7  | 20 | 32   |
| Nottingham    | 17 | 2  | 5  | 10 | 13 | 27   |

simple one — to string together a few victories in the league and to keep in touch with the pack above us."

As long as Brightwell is passed fit, Reid hopes to name a full-strength side and make amends for the unscheduled 1-0 defeat at home to Tottenham Hotspur last week. "I was very disappointed both with our form and our performance during the course of last week's defeat, which ended a run of four straight wins," Reid said. "Having said that, I must say that my players have been most impressive in training all week, and I am hopeful that they have got that poor result out of their systems."

Cantona can guarantee himself a place in the hearts of United supporters with a goal. To do that he must not only appear on the pitch, but also outwit a City defence including, in Keith Curle and Terry Phelan, Britain's costliest defenders.

"My team is looking good at the moment and our aim is a

Saturday portrait, page 30

## Sterling ends farce fittingly

Peterborough United ..... 1  
Kingstonian ..... 0

By Russell Kempson

THE FA Cup evokes images of drama, passion, joy and despair. Tiny grounds overflowing with expectation, giant-killing in the air. Kingstonian bowed out at London Road yesterday amid eerie echoes and deserted terraces. It was no way to go.

Nobody wanted a replay of the first-round replay, which ended 9-1 to Peterborough but was crashed by the Football Association after Adrian Blake, the Kingstonian goalkeeper, had been struck by a coin and carted off to hospital, with the score 3-0.

A behind-closed-doors rematch was ordered, hence the 100-strong gathering of officials, media and invitation-only

spectators on a cold, crisp afternoon in Cambridgeshire.

"It was a farce. I'm still bitterly disappointed with the FA," Chris Kelly, the Kingstonian manager, said.

Kelly said that, at most, a neutral venue should have been used. The powers that be decreed otherwise and the Kingstonian players, sixteenth in the Diadora League premier division, had to beg, steal and borrow time off.

Adie Cowler, the captain, snatched barely an hour's sleep after a night sorting out his interior design business. Andy Parr worked late painting and decorating. Dave Kempton forfeited £100 to take a day off selling cheese.

"I just want to forget the whole episode," Cowler said. "If this is what professional football is all about, I'm glad I'm not good enough."

Kingstonian's preparations

included breakfast at Fat

Boys Cafe and a spell of Space Invaders. It was nothing to the strange scenario ahead.

Peterborough, tenth in the first division, did their best. Kingstonian scrapped like a non-League side should. Every expletive could be heard; every robust challenge reverberated round the rafters.

Bizarre circumstances cried out for a bizarre ending and it arrived in the 68th minute.

Cooper's cross flicked off Kempton and hit Sterling full in the face before going in. "I don't know what any of us were doing here," Chris Turner, the Peterborough manager, said. His words, not for the first time, echoed true.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED: I Bennett; D Bradshaw, R Robinson, M Halse, L Coworth (subs: N Llewellyn, S Welch, W Sharkey, G Cooper, A Adcock, A Phillips, M Ebdon, KINGSTONIAN: A Blake, J Finch, A Cowley, S Ebdon, D Broadbent, D Kempton, P Harrow, P Shadlock (sub: R Cherry), F Hayes, R Bradshaw, A Parr. Referee: R Rogers.

## England faces political battle for World Cup

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE fragile unity of international cricket is once more threatened with divisions as the contest to stage the next World Cup enters a complex, political, and potentially chaotic voting phase.

England's bid, the details of which were announced yesterday, commits £5 million to their vision of a five-week tournament in May and June of 1995. It is undeniably an impressive proposal, but it will not necessarily win the way.

The joint bid from India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka is believed to be worth slightly less as an overall package, but sets out to woo the support of the minor cricketing countries by promising a high input to the Associate Members Trophy, from which three teams will qualify for the World Cup.

The sub-continent is playing a canny political game, something which was always likely once this most prestigious of cricketing events had been put out to tender, rather than being awarded on a rota basis as England claimed was correct.

Money, as ever, will hold the greatest sway, but political pressures will also be brought to bear in coming weeks, and there is no guarantee of a decisive or amicable resolution before next summer.

A special meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has been scheduled for February 2 in London. There is talk of avoiding this expense by taking a postal vote, but this is surely wishful thinking. Cricket has never before held an auction of this nature or magnitude, and the existing voting procedures look dangerously outdated.

Two-thirds of the nine full members are needed for a majority decision, but neither bidder seems likely to achieve this. The key is held by the African nations; if both South Africa and Zimbabwe vote for England, they would decide the issue, but Zimbabwe have already indicated they will support the sub-continent, while South Africa has yet to make its position known.

The associate members, who each have one vote against the full members' two, further complicate any prognosis. But the most intriguing aspect is that the ICC constitution still contains scope for the two foundation members, England and Australia, to apply their veto on any opposi-

tion by voting together. All in all, it is a confusing prospect even for those concerned, and officers of the ICC are fervently hoping that one or other bid receives a clear majority on a first vote to avoid their rules and procedures being held up to yet more unfavourable scrutiny.

The English tender, compiled by a sub-committee chaired by Douglas Insole and approved by the Test and County Cricket Board, emphasises the logistical and climatic advantages of staging in this country what is now a high-profile and hectic event. Ease of travel is highlighted, along with quality of practice facilities and preparatory fixtures.

"Finance is not the overriding factor," Insole said, perhaps optimistically. He went on to point out that on the three previous occasions when England has been the venue, only one of 57 matches was not completed.

The long daylight hours are an attraction, and although India will offer some floodlit venues, the English view is that daytime cricket is "less artificial".

If the cup comes here, the 12 teams will be divided into two leagues, the top four in each going on to a knockout stage.

The winning team would receive £50,000, and there would be a guarantee of £300,000 to each full member. These figures double the rewards available from the last World Cup in Australia, and reflect the growth of the event and its attraction as a television spectacle.



Insole: optimistic

## Retaliation from the top

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THE International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) yesterday met fire with fire and said that it might seek damages for libel against Butch Reynolds, the 400 metres world record-holder who on Thursday was awarded \$27.3 million (about £18 million) in damages against the IAAF.

A United States District Court in Columbus, Ohio, ruled that the world governing body of athletics should pay \$6.5 million to Reynolds for loss of earnings during his two-year suspension for drug abuse and \$20.5 million in punitive damages. The federation said that the court did not have jurisdiction over it and repeated its stance yesterday. "This judgment is worthless," an IAAF statement said.

The same statement went on not only to threaten action against Reynolds for alleged libel but to suggest that it may impose a further suspension. Reynolds is already under an extended ban, the IAAF having added five months to his

original two-year suspension, for drug abuse in 1990. The extended ban is due to end on December 31 and Reynolds is planning to race indoors in New York in February.

Yesterday's IAAF statement added: "The IAAF council will consider the possibility of commencing proceedings against Mr Reynolds for libel and taking further disciplinary action under IAAF rules."

The move, the statement said, would be to "defend the honour and integrity of its members, accredited laboratories, arbitration panel members, medical committee and doping commission members and officials." The next IAAF council meeting is planned for Jakarta in January.

Reynolds' lawyers also took an attacking stance and threatened to target IAAF sponsors. "It will be a long process but, if necessary, we will take it to Atlanta [the venue for the Olympic Games] in 1996," Mimi Dane, an attorney for Reynolds, said. She added that they would

seek to sequester money owed to the IAAF by American sponsors.

Last January, Mobil announced from New York a four-year extension to its sponsorship of the IAAF grand prix. It pays \$763,000 in prize-money each year, but the IAAF said yesterday that the finance came from Mobil outside the United States and that it has no sponsors' money there. Coca-Cola, Visa and Snickers are also sponsors of the IAAF's world series.

The IAAF said that the issue presented no threat to athletics at the 1996 Olympic Games because they are organised by the International Olympic Committee and are not financed by federation money. No IAAF championships are scheduled in America before 1996.

The first IAAF event where its officials may become subject to United States law is the indoor meeting in Johnson City on January 30. The IAAF said yesterday: "Everything proceeds as normal."

## A day in the life of a legend

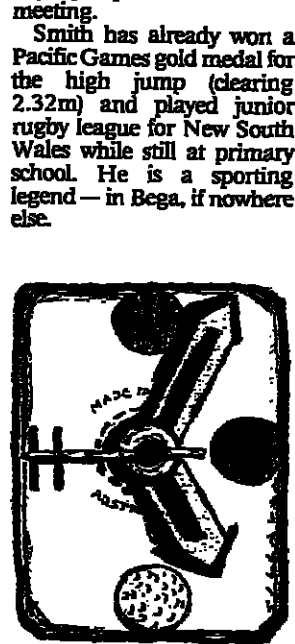
Forth Worth: Out here, deep in the heart of Texas, a new sporting hero has broken from cover. His name is Neale Smith, and he comes from Bega, in New South Wales, Australia. He seems to be one of those people who is so extraordinarily talented at absolutely everything that he never made his mark at one single thing.

He is a rather long-in-the-tooth 27. He is in the United States completing his education, and has done a masters degree in sports psychology. And he has just qualified for the \$70 million United States golf tour, finishing joint first in the PGA qualifying tournament at Woodlands Country Club in Houston.

It turns out that such a feat is pretty routine for Smith. In one 24-hour period back in Bega — said to be the Eastbourne of New South Wales — he:

- played a three-under-par round in his golf club's monthly medal tournament;
- scored a century in first-grade cricket;
- scored 49 of the 54 points recorded by his local basketball team, and
- cleared seven feet in the high jump at an athletics meeting.

Smith has already won a Pacific Games gold medal for the high jump (clearing 2.32m) and played junior rugby league for New South Wales while still at primary school. He is a sporting legend — in Bega, if nowhere else.



## Horse sense

The big event here is not the Davis Cup final at all, but the National Cutting Horse Association World Futurity. In an audience of wall-to-wall hats on top and wall-to-wall boots below, horses with names like Rambler, Ricky Rev, Little Bitty Darlin' and Lil Sugar Snap dance in front of cows in a glorious display

of horsemanship and equine agility. Ronnie Rice is leading as I write. He said of his session with Sugar Ray Lena: "They left me decent cows and he was dead on. His eye appeal and his physical ability are his strong points. As far as ability, there's nothing he can't do." There are times when America feels about as accessible as the Russian Orthodox church.

There are calls for her to apologise. A thousand commentators have pointed out how the affair shows what is

wrong with Schott, baseball, and, best of all, America. Schott has defended herself vigorously and said with wonderful ambiguity: "I don't think good blacks like this."

More good news about the way the country has united behind the Manchester bid for the 2000 Olympics. Rangers have refused to allow 1100 to be used for the early rounds of the Olympic football tournament.

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TAYLOR'S PORT  
BEST taken Seriously



ACING  
faces  
battle  
1 Cup



HO! HO! HO!

Get in the mood  
for Christmas

See inside



ALAN COREN

Feathers fly in  
Cricklewood

Page 8



WHAT TO WEAR

Party faithful  
twentysomethings

Page 10

CAITLIN  
MORAN ON  
REVOLUTION  
Page 18

# WEEKEND

# 3

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1992

## High spirits and happy souls

Traditional Anglicanism may be in decline, says Matthew d'Ancona, but spirituality is finding other expression

Tomorrow the chapel of Buckingham Palace will resound to sung Eucharist, as, a few miles away, believers at Hampton Court listen to the address of Dr David Hope, Bishop of London and stalwart opponent of female ordination.

In Merseyside, home-based retreatants attached to the Centre of Ignatian Spirituality will continue their pursuit of the centuries-old spiritual path set down by the founder of the Jesuits, while further south, a throng of young families enjoys the lively evangelical services at St Thomas Crook's Church in Sheffield.

Heading southwest, the eight-man community at the Barn, in Totnes, Devon, will be completing Buddhist meditation exercises about the same time, before a busy day's work in harmony with the land. Who said we live in a spiritless land?

To go in search of British spirituality is a curious task. We might begin by examining the state of the Church of England — usually the first crystal ball into which the optimists and the doom-mongers peer to test the strength of the nation's soul.

For Fr Philip Ursell, principal of Oxford's traditionalist seminary, Pusey House, there is little to be cheerful about in the spiritual state of the nation. "I wonder if British spirituality actually exists now. It's become confused with a sort of English sentimentality — being nice to animals and helping old ladies across the road."

Defenders of the church would say that the General Synod's decision to admit women to the priesthood last month was an act of clarity and conviction which will fill the pews once more. But Fr Ursell believes that such flaunting of tradition is detrimental to spirituality.

"There's a decline in knowledge of Common Prayer, the Coverdale translations of the Psalms and the authorised version of the Bible," he says. "It's something that's happened since the war: pantheist religion in school assemblies, the departure of children from Sunday schools. For me, the decline of the Prayer Book is the decline of English religion."

Attendances at ordinary Sunday services fell again in 1990 by 1 per cent, while membership in the

church's 13,000 parishes declined by 13 per cent (to 1.4 million). But in the eyes of some outside the Anglican tradition, a decline in church attendances is not necessarily an indication of spiritual lethargy. Dr Hesham el-Essawy, director of the Islamic Society for Religious Tolerance, says: "The British are, by nature, spiritual. Even in those who declare themselves atheists, I detect a spiritual second nature. That is, spiritual as opposed to material, the belief that there is deeper meaning."

So, however godless today's political dissenters and chattering classes imagine themselves to be, they draw from a deep spiritual well. So, too, do the evangelicals. After centuries of battle the spiritual moment seems to be theirs: one of their number is now installed in Lambeth Palace and the decade has been named after them.

Baptist organisations such as the Oasis Trust tour the country in search of the young souls they say are there for the taking. They fish not with nets but with television walls churning out pop videos. The evangelicals' "happy-clappy" style is winning official support, too, to the horror of the high church "smells and bells" lobby: in July, the synod set up a working party to look into the role of

**'Even in those who declare themselves atheists I detect a spiritual second nature'**

rock music in worship, what the Bishop of Chester calls "rave in the nave".

About one million British Christians are now reckoned to classify themselves as evangelical, and the number is growing. But if this is the cutting edge of the nation's spirituality, what does it mean? "The age of materialism, the secularist mindset, has merely demonstrated itself unable to address the most fundamental questions of our society," says Joel Edwards, UK development director of the Evangelical Alliance. "The evangelical movement — which hasn't lost sight of fundamental Christianity but isn't fundamentalist — recommends itself to the intelligent person."

It sounds like a sales pitch, which is precisely what it is. Yet the evangelicals have a knack of turning platitudes into reality. A flick through the glossy pages of the evangelical magazine *Alpha* illustrates the passion of their attack: "the confused spirituality of the



Rise and rejoice: at the Celestial Church of Christ in Peckham, south London, which is Nigerian in origin, worship is spontaneous, vigorous and fun

Royal Family", a probe into the "heresy" of television wrestling, and a fierce attack on the "blatant sin of Madonna" vie for the attention of the reader. This is designer religion with a vengeance.

Thatcherism and its legacy seem to have played a part in defining the shape of Britain's spirituality today. Our individualistic society has spawned an individualistic credo: a desire to find a custom-built approach to self-discovery. This is epitomised by the remarkable growth in popularity of the retreat — among all faiths.

On the other hand, the evangelical explosion has been explained as a mass psychic response to the recessionary pinch, a quest for new certainties to replace the "greed is good" mantra of the 1980s. This seems a bit glib, as the evangelicals themselves point out. David Bebbington, a reader in history at Stirling University and author of *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain*, says that the expansion of higher education has produced a

generation of intelligent, highly motivated believers, inclined to evangelical forms of spirituality.

Does education really lead to faith? The reverse has often been true, when science and sophisticated cynicism have undermined religious belief. But in recent years, says Mr Bebbington, the evangelical movement has been the most conspicuous beneficiary of "a strong subterranean sympathy for spirituality" in this country.

Support for spiritual practices that look not to a God, but within for their personal salvation — most notably Buddhism — has also been encouraged by the 1980s me-style climate. Kulananda of the Western Buddhist Order believes: "Buddhism allows people to keep responsibility for their own spiritual lives while offering practical methods, such as meditation, for developing their faith."

A further development from the ethos of the me-generation is the

growing appeal of the New Age. Its reverence of the earth goddess and natural cycles stops little short of worship. Moreover, the "peace and harmony with nature" practices of the New Age traveller have many echoes of rural semi-Pagan ritual.

To my eyes, the real adherents of the New Age — crystals, aromatherapy, Gaia, past-life therapy et al. — are the thirtysomethings of the South East who got rich under Thatcher, but banker after the non-specific spiritualism of the 1960s. Rabbi Julia Newberger believes British spirituality is rooted in simple aesthetic appreciation (she cites the new popularity of classical music) and a sense of community: national characteristics that struck her first as a rabbinic student. "I would point to what goes on in hospices. Living and working with the ill and their families, there is a sense that the spiritual side is as important as the material."

This near-equation of spirituality and benevolence sounds alarming, similar to what Fr Ursell called

"English sentimentality". But perhaps that is the point. Good things rarely submit to easy definition. It might be said that the essence of British spirituality combines principled generosity with sheer vagueness. The playwright Robert Bolt called it "our island genius for compromise"; most aptly, Philip Larkin called it "awkward reverence".

Whatever it is, tomorrow, in the ante-chapel at Magdalen College, Oxford, it will be visible in the faces of those visitors gazing up at the extraordinary Leonardo *Last Supper*, now on loan from the Royal Academy. The painting is a truly startling sight, almost embarrassingly affecting. Some of the visitors will not have stepped inside a church this year. But they may spot a look of awe in each other's eyes and reflect that not all the spirits have flown from this odd, irreligious land.

● "At Your Service", a new series on places of worship around Britain, starts today on page 9.

### THE FAITHFUL

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Anglicans                         | 1,838,659 |
| Roman Catholics                   | 1,945,626 |
| Baptists                          | 241,842   |
| Orthodox                          | 265,258   |
| Presbyterians                     | 1,291,672 |
| Other protestants                 | 123,677   |
| Independent churches              | 408,999   |
| Methodists                        | 483,387   |
| Afro-Caribbean churches           | 69,658    |
| Buddhists                         | 27,500    |
| Hindus                            | 140,000   |
| International Society for Krishna |           |
| Consciousness                     | 50,000    |
| Jews                              | 108,400   |
| Muslims                           | 990,000   |
| Sikhs                             | 390,000   |

Source: UK Christian Handbook 1992/3 (figures relate to 1991 survey)

## All downhill on the learning curve

Why are sensible people unable to benefit from experience?

It's a funny thing the way humans seem unable to learn from their mistakes. Even the lowliest of invertebrates has a modicum of intelligence. Enough to enable worms, for example, to learn eventually to stop turning left, where they receive an electric shock, in favour of the right turn, which is neutral.

This topic came up last Sunday when we finished lunch at 3.45pm and found, as we looked out at the encircling gloom, that we had left it too late to go for a walk. It has been dark at 4.30 for a number of weeks now, but each one of the five adults present had promoted the conditions whereby lunch started late and inevitably finished late, despite the fact that we had all desperately wanted to go for a walk.

We had also failed to buy enough wine from Waitrose on Friday night, so that when we ran out on Sunday we were forced to go to the local pub and pay £2.50 more a bottle for bad wine than we would have paid for good from the

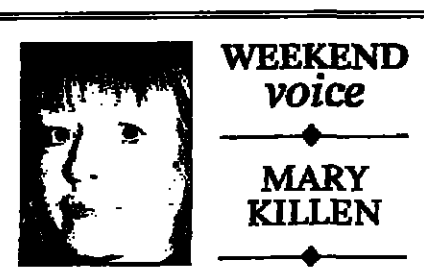
supermarket or the off-licence.

This was a fairly typical weekend in our cottage, or thatched hut of nine lavatory-sized rooms bought at the peak of the boom in 1988. When we bought it we were enthralled by the Eaid Blyton-ness of having a proper country cottage. We soon found out why Blyton characters were so happy in cottages — they were all children and therefore of reduced stature. When we hear a rat-tat-tat-tat at our door and we open it there is normally a scream of pain, as whoever was outside fails to stoop before coming in. We always forget to warn visitors.

If more than two people are in any of the rooms at the same time you get a feeling of being trapped in a lift, and so we all go out for walks. Then there is a long, drawn-out faffing as people look for their

boots (having failed to leave them in a set place near the door), dog leads, gloves and car keys, if we are driving to the start-off point.

Last weekend we had some people to stay in the hut. Half of the party arrived amazed that they had been stuck in traffic at Hamleys roundabout, making the journey take three hours instead of the one hour it might take if you did it in the middle of the night. But they had left on Friday night at rush-hour. "I always forget how bad the traffic is leaving London on a Friday night," yawned one of them, as though saying something novel. "And I'm afraid I drank at lunchtime and it



WEEKEND  
voice

MARY  
KILLEN

has completely knocked me out. I always forget how tiring drinking at lunchtime is."

Very generously, a neighbour had invited us all to lunch on Saturday. It was extremely kind of her. Regrettably, she put a "stay-cool handle" saucepan containing

the lunch into the Aga instead of on top of it. She burnt her hand when she took it out, not once, but four times. Then her husband — who wrestled her out of the way in irritation — put on an oven glove and failed to remember that the thumb had been burnt through, so he burnt his own thumb and screamed with pain. "I keep meaning to throw that glove away," said

his wife. Provocatively, I raised the subject of people being unable to learn from their mistakes. My husband volunteered the information that he always has his bath too hot, leaving himself feeling "weak and heart-attacky every evening".

another time-consuming trip into our local market town.

I remember once visiting a friend named Liza, who lived in a balcony flat in Chelsea. She had been given a present of a rubber plant. "Shall I let it die inside or out on the balcony?" she asked. Clearly, she had learnt from experience, and was only too happy to let me take it away.

Try to avoid Sunday Night Syndrome if you can help it. I suffered from it desperately last weekend. Prepare yourself for the fact that you are likely to go down with a black depression if you drink and over-eat at Sunday lunch and have filled your consciousness with tales of atrocities garnered by the newspapers from all corners of the globe. Make an appointment with your cinema tomorrow night. Go and see a film called *Strictly Ballroom*. Ride out the Sunday Night Syndrome of being faced with the evidence of your own mistakes by, this week, planning ahead.

# Goood!

It's our 26 year old baby.

A Limited Edition miniature, no less, to be won answering a few potty questions on the back of The Macallan 10 Year Old Malt Whisky's Christmas carton.

To say it's like mother's milk could be seriously to under-estimate the sherry cask in which it has *SLUMBERED SINCE 1966*. This is voluptuous stuff and — whether you give or keep the bottle of 10 Year Old (no mean mouthful itself) — our baby will add a touch of private jubilation long after the festive season is over.

Cootchee?

*The Macallan. The Malt.*



## THEATRE

## LONDON

**ASSASSINS:** Sondheim's sharp and successful musical explores the impulse that drives no-hopes to kill American Presidents. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (071-867 1150). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

**CAROUSEL:** Michael Hayden in Nicholas Hytner's large-scale production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein fairground musical which ran for over a year in the Fifties. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews tonight, Mon-Wed, 7.30pm; mat today, 2.15pm; opens Thurs, 7pm; then in repertoire.

**CYRANO DE BERGERAC:** Robert Lindsay in the title role as Rostand's long-nosed, long-distance lover. Directed by Elijah Moshinsky. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Previews evens, 7.30pm; opens Dec 14, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

**HAY FEVER:** Very funny performances (not always where you expect) in Coward's excellent comedy.

**ALBURY:** St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

**THE GIFT OF THE GORGON:** Peter Hall directs Judi Dench and Michael Pennington in Peter Shaffer's latest: revenge and justice in modern times, with an echo of ancient Greece. The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews tonight, Wed-next Sat, 7.15pm; mats Thurs, next Sat, 2pm; opens Dec 16.



Anguished: Barrie Rutter as the king in *Richard III*

**IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:** Lark in the hospital common room; matriarch outraged; doctor flummoxed. Roy Coney face with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

**JUNE MOON:** Native song-writer conquers Tin Pan Alley. Delightful comedy by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman. Excellent cast led by Adam Godley and Frank Lazarus.

**VAUDEVILLE:** The Strain, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

**MISERY:** Sharon Gless (former cop Cagney) unites Bill Paterson in stage version of the Stephen King thriller. Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (071-839 4488). Previews from Thurs, 8pm; opens Dec 17, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

**NO MAN'S LAND:** Spellbinding journey into Purgatory with Harold Hines and Paul Eddington as

the two stalling combatants. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

**OUR SONG:** Peter O'Toole in Ken Waghorn's play about a menapausal male's infatuation with a young woman. Neatly done though we only hear the man's point of view. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

**A PENNY FOR A SONG:** A Dorset household of eccentrics prepare to defend their shores from Napoleon's invasion fleet. John Whiting's engaging comedy. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Preview tonight, 7.45pm; opens Mon, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat (from Dec 12), 4pm.

**RICHARD III:** Barrie Rutter takes the lead and directs this acclaimed Northern Broadsides production (with the battle scene as a dog dance). Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith (081-748 3354). Preview Tues, 7.45pm; opens Wed, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3.30pm.

**STAGES:** Haunting performance by Alan Bates as the washed-up artist in David Storey's elegy for lost times and places. Lindsay Anderson directs. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, Mon-Wed, 8pm, mats today, Wed, 4pm.

**THREE BIRDS LAUGHING ON A FIELD:** Harriet Walter perfect again in revival of this subtle, comic state-of-the-nation play, set in a world of shifting values and plummeting air-prices. Royal Court, St. Martin's Lane, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 150mins.

**TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT:** Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Gae play all 26 parts, male and female, in Giles Haverall's marvellous adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.

**WYNDHAM'S, CHARTING CROSS ROAD:** WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

**TRELAUNY OF THE "WELLS":** Sarah Brightman and Michael Hordern head a terrific cast in Pinero's engaging comedy about theatre folk in mid-Victorian London.

**CONCEIT:** Pantomime, SW1 (071-867-1045). Preview tonight, 7.30pm; opens Mon, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

**REGIONAL**

**BOLTON:** Bob Carlton's updated panto, *Aladdin Bolton* (credit!) packed with Sooties hits. Octagon, Howell Croft South (0204 20661). Opens tonight, 7.30pm; then at various times daily until Jan 16.

**LEEDS:** *Granny and the Gorilla*, or "The Great Escape": described as a hairy fairy story. For children of seven and upwards, who sit in the middle of the action surrounded by a huge set.

**COURTYARD, WEST YORKSHIRE:** Playhouse (0532 442111). Previews Fri, 1.45pm and 7pm; opens Sat (Dec 12), 3pm and 7pm; then at various times daily until Jan 9.

**MANCHESTER:** Alan Garner's compelling *Elder*, a tale of a magic land just a twitch away from our own, brought to the stage; for seven years and upwards. Contract, Oxford Road (061-274-4400). Today, 2pm and 7.30pm; Mon, Fri, 7.30pm; and daily from Dec 19.

**MOLD:** Charles Dickens's warning against being nasty to the staff on Christmas Eve. A



Desperately seeking eternal youth: Meryl Streep stars in the ice-cold black comedy *Death Becomes Her* (see Film)

*Christmas Carol*, with new music and lyrics. Theatre Chryd, (0352 755114). Preview Tues, 7.45pm; then at various times daily until Jan 23.

**OXFORD:** Daydreaming Princess Follia and mischievous Tom Fool in *Fooling About*, by the team who produced last year's delightful *Magical Storybook*. Playhouse, Beaumont Street (0865 798600). Today, Mon, 2pm and 7pm; then at various times daily until Jan 23.

**SOUTHAMPTON:** Granville Saxton directs *Sinbad's Arabian Nights*, with stunts, glitter and, apparently, a full dog dance. Newfield, University Road (0703 671771). Previews from Thurs, 7.30pm; opens Dec 15, 7.30pm; then at various times daily until Jan 16.

## FILM

**BLADE RUNNER (15):** The improved "director's cut" of Ridley Scott's influential vision of a dark, hellish LA, infested with rebel androids. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer. Gate (071-727 4043) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

**THE CRYING GAME (18):** IRA gunman becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Bold, powerful Neil Jordan film that falters at the close. Stars Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jaye Davidson, Miranda Richardson. Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527).

**DEATH BECOMES HER (PG):** Meryl Streep and Goldie Hawn battle to attain eternal youth. Ice-cold black comedy, ultimately swamped by special effects. Stars Bruce Willis; director, Robert Zemeckis. Empire (071-487 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**ELECTRIC MOON (15):** Pradip Krishen's botched satire about Western tourists led by a phoney version of Indian life. With Roshan Seth. MGM Panton Street (071-930 0531) Electric (071-792 2020).

**GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS (15):** Real-estate salesmen fight for their lives. Energetic version of David Mamet's play, though Jack Lemmon goes over the top. Co-starring Al Pacino, Ed Harris; director, James Foley. Odeons: Haymarket (0426 915353) Kensington (0426 915666).

**HUSBANDS AND WIVES (15):** Woody Allen's best film in years, a scorching tale of collapsing New York marriages. Stars Allen, Mia Farrow, Judy Davis, Liam Neeson, Juliette Lewis. Barbican (071-638 8891) MGM Panton Street (071-930 0531) Millenium (071-235 4325) Odeons: Kensington (0426 915666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Renol (071-837 8402).

**THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS (12):** Romance and adventure in the American colonies with frontiersman Daniel Day-Lewis. Shallow version of the classic novel; director Michael Mann. With Madeleine Stowe, Russell Means. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**OF MICE AND MEN (PG):** Steinbeck's classic Depression tale of friendship and innocence. John Malkovich as the slow-witted Lennie; director Gary Sinise as his protector. Simple, sturdy and moving. Curzon West End (071-439 4805) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**PETER'S FRIENDS (15):** College pals meet up after a decade for a glib mixture of laughter and tears. Kenneth Branagh directs Emma Thompson, Stephen Fry, Rita Rudner and himself. Barbican (071-638 8891) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Plaza (071-497 9999) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**SINGLE WHITE FEMALE (18):** New room-mate proves a crackpot. Nicely atmospheric, but the crudities mount. Bridget Fonda, Jennifer Jason Leigh, director, Barbet Schroeder. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426

914666) Leicester Square (0426 915683) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**SISTER ACT (PG):** Whoopi Goldberg hides out in a convent. Convinced but disarming, warm-hearted comedy. Maggie Smith as the Mother Superior. Director, Emile Ardolino. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**SLACKER (15):** College-age layouts in Austin, Texas, vent crazy thoughts on life, the Smurfs and UFOs. Striking debut by film-maker Richard Linklater, with an amateur cast. Metro (071-437 0757).

## MUSIC

**BILLY BUDD:** Opera North opens its winter season in Leeds with Graham Vick's staging (a co-production with Scottish Opera) of Britten's gripping saga of strife at sea. Nigel Howard is Captain Vere, Jason Howard sings the title role, John Tomlinson is Claggart, Keith Latham, Donald. Egan Howard conducts. Grand Theatre, 46 New Brigste, Leeds (0532 459551/440971), Fri, 7pm.

**DIDO AND AENEAS:** Purcell's poignant masterpiece is given an "authentic" staged performance by the English Bach Festival, the first in a series of events to celebrate the pioneering ensemble's 30th anniversary. The cast includes Della Jones, Nigel Lason-Williams and Marilyn Hill Smith. David Wray directs the English Bach Festival Baroque Ensemble, Singers and Dancers. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Mon, 7.45pm.

**SAUL AND DAVID:** Long neglected outside Denmark, this opera by Carl Nielsen deserves attention not only as a continuation of the composer's symphonies by other means, but also as a dramatic work in its own right. For this concert performance, under the auspices of the "Tender is the Night" festival, Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Ulrik Cold and Kurt West are the protagonists. Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), Mon, 7.30pm.

**TENDER IS THE NIGHT:** A week-long mini-festival within this month's celebration of Nordic culture focuses on new music. A series of concerts by the ensemble Avanti! (Tues, Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm), the Arditi Quartet (Fri, 7.30pm) and the Kroumata Percussion Ensemble (next Sat, 7.30pm) aims to put works by contemporary Scandinavian composers in context by programming them alongside 20th-century classics by

the Danish composer.

**MAYERLING:** A rare chance to see the superb Stephen Jeffries in one of his finest roles: the doomed Crown Prince Rudolf in Machiavelli's sensational ballet of sex and death in turn-of-the-century Austria. The fine Lesley Collier is his mistress Mary Vetsera. Royal Opera House (as above), Thurs, 7.30pm.

**NETHERLANDS DANCE THEATRE:** Since taking over this company in 1978, the Czech-

born Jiri Kylian has turned it into one of the world's finest on the strength of his powerful and elegant choreography. This is the troupe's first visit to Britain in 17 years and will be well worth the trip to Bradford for serious dance fans. Alhambra Theatre, Morley Street, Bradford (0274 752000), Tues-next Sat, 7.30pm.

**LONDON CITY BALLET:** The company opens its annual Sadler's Wells season on Tuesday with its production of *Romeo and Juliet*. The first-night cast features Kim Miller and Paul Thrussell as Shakespeare's lovers; later in the week guest artists Eve Evdokimova and Paul Chalmers take the leading roles at some performances. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), Tues-next Sat, 7.30pm, mat next Sat, 2.30pm.

**OPERA**

**PROKOFIEV PROKOFIEFF**

**TCHAIKOVSKY TCHAIKOVSKII**

Great days: leaflet from the Wigmore's past (see above)

**CLASSICAL**

**BARBARA THOMPSON'S SANS FRONTIERS:** The British saxophonist and composer has brought together some of Europe's finest jazz musicians in a band called the British Saxophone Ensemble. Enrico Rava, exhilarating Dutch pianist Jasper Van't Hof, Danish bassist Bo Sileff, Polish violinist Michael Urbanik and Thompson's husband, fusion drummer Jon Helsen. Regent Arts Centre, Workshop (0904 482896), Tues, 7.30pm.

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK ARTS CENTRE:** Coventry (0203 524524), Thurs, 8pm. Stables Theatre, Wavendon (0908 583928), Fri, 7.15pm.

**MOTHER EARTH/THE SANDALS/CORRUPTIO:** Bringing elements of rock music into jazz can result in soulless technic wizardry. Not so in the case of these bohemian 1970s-style funk bands that each bring essential dynamism to groovy compositions. Jazz Café, London NW1 (071-284 4358), Tues, 7pm.

**THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIR:** Following the success of their American tour the rock-raising Reid brothers hit town for a one-off gig. Britton Academy, London SW9 (071-326 1022), tonight, 7.30pm.

**SHAKY:** Your mother's favourite rock 'n' roller, these days on first name terms, heads for the capital on the last leg of his tour. St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371236), tomorrow, 7pm. White Rock, Hastings (0424 722755), Mon, 7.15pm. Arena, Ryde (0983 615155), Tues, 7.15pm.

**DOMINION:** London W1 (071-580 8845), Wed, 6.45pm.

**SONIC YOUTH:** One of the bands that presaged the coming of Nirvana, Sonic Youth re-emerge after a two-year absence with a varied album of boisterous guitar tunes. Dirty, Rainier Club, Bristol (0272 304466), Mon, 7pm.

**HUMMINGBIRD:** Birmingham (021-236 4236), Tues, 7pm.

**Academy, Manchester:** (061-275 2930), Wed, 7pm.

**Barrowlands, Glasgow:** (031-557 6969), Thurs, 7pm.

**IZZY STRADLIN AND THE JU JU HOUNDS:** The former rhythm guitarist of Guns N' Roses has turned his back on stadium excesses to form a classic, nooby rock band. Rock City, Nottingham (0602 412544), Wed, 8pm. Town & Country Club, Leeds (0532 442999), Thurs, 8pm. Town Hall, Middlesbrough (0642 242561), Fri, 7pm.

**BERG, LIGETI, MESSIAEN AND TAKEMITSU:** The Place, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031).

**LONDON SINFONETTA:** The group's 25th anniversary celebrations continue with a concert under Lothar Zagrosek which includes music by Lutoslawski, Fernyough and Birnswile, as well as a new work by the eclectic young American composer Michael Torke. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), Tues, 7.45pm.

**NASH ENSEMBLE:** In an inspired piece of programming the Nash celebrate the reopening of the Wigmore Hall with a series of concerts commemorating great occasions in the history of London's best-loved recital venue. The first, tomorrow at 4pm, evokes the Fourth memorial concert of June 9, 1925. Yvonne Kenny, Sarah Walker and Adrian Thompson are the vocal soloists in the all-female programme, which includes not only songs but the two Piano Quartets, and music for viola and piano. Four further concerts in the series are planned between January and April. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 2141), tomorrow, 4pm.

## EXHIBITIONS

**ORANGERIE ITALIANA 1992:** Now in its third edition, this is the only fair in Britain devoted to Italian works of art and antiquities. Some 40 dealers take part; works on view range from antique illuminated manuscripts to 19th-century paintings. Admission for Times readers is £3.50 — rather than £5 — on presentation of today's edition. Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW1 (071-225 3474). Mon-Fri, 11am-7pm, Sat-Sun, 11am-6pm, Wed-Dec 18.

**CHINESE LAQUER:** Most of the works on display come from the collection of the late Jean-Pierre Dubosc, a leading authority on Chinese art and a pioneer Western collector. Seven pieces date from as early as the Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD); others, from the time of Kublai Khan and his successors. The latest pieces belong to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and the whole offers an unrivalled opportunity to become familiar with the rarest and the best in this particular field. Eskenazi, Foxglove House, 166 Piccadilly, W1 (071-493 5464). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, Sat, 10am-1pm, Tues-Dec 22.

**SICKERT:** Since Sickert was last shown extensively in London, tastes have changed. Although the artist's early works, reflecting his cosmopolitan experience with Whistler and the Impressionists, have retained their lofty status, they have been increasingly joined of late by the once-despised work of his old age, based frequently on newspaper photographs or images from pop culture of the day. This 134-work show gives ample opportunity to see both sides. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly W1 (071-439 7438). Daily 10am-6pm, until Feb 14.

**ERIC GILL:** The first to concentrate on Gill's major sculptures, this show presents him as one of the most brilliant of all stone-carvers. The works combining erotic and religious elements are wonderfully cheery; there is no sense of guilt or incongruity here to mar enjoyment of them. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon, Wed, Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tues 10am-5.45pm, Sun midday-6.45pm, until Feb 14.

**EDWARD MUNCH:** This major show is devoted to the paintings, drawings and prints made by Munch in the 1890s in connection with his great autobiographical scheme *The Scream of Life*. Some 85 pieces are drawn from three great Norwegian collections, mostly never seen before in Britain. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Daily, 10am-6pm (Wed to 8pm), until Feb 7.

**ALLAN RAMSAY:** The portraitist was brilliant with characterful men, but had a special talent for depicting women in an unspecial way, as people rather than clothes-horses or stereotypes of femininity. National Portrait Gallery, St

**WORD-WATCHING**

Answers from page 18

**SPILORE**

(b) A frolic, merrymaking, revel, carousal, Scottish dialect, of obscure origin; Burns: "A merry core/In Poesie Nancy's held the splore."

**MIXOLOGIST**

(a) One who is skilled in the mixing of drinks, a fastidious American portmanteau: "Who ever heard of a man's calling the bartender a mixologist of tipical findings?"

**SUBRISION**

(b) The act of smiling, from the Latin *subridere* to smile, almost to laugh, but not quite, which is the force of the sub: "In the act of enjoying a gentle subrision." "This half-hearted and somewhat subrisionary denial."

**HELVE**

(b) The handle of a tool or weapon, or, as verb, to equip with a handle from the OE *healf*: "By twisting a whiff of Hickory round the stem, they make a helve, and so cut and bruise the bark round the tree."

**CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS:** For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer crossword software with help levels, (runs on most PCs), call Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS on 0302 890000 - STOP PRESS! just released - The First Book of The Times Jumbo Concise Crosswords - ring Akom.



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**SISTER ACT (PG):** Whoopi Goldberg hides out in a convent. Convinced but disarming, warm-hearted comedy. Maggie Smith as the Mother Superior. Director, Emile Ardolino. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**SLACKER (15):** College-age layouts in Austin, Texas, vent crazy thoughts on life, the Smurfs and UFOs. Striking debut by film-maker Richard Linklater, with an amateur cast. Metro (071-437 0757).

**STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG):** One dancer's fight to defy the rules of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Brilliant debut by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Mercurio, Tara Morica. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Renol (071-837 8402) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**THIS IS MY LIFE (12):** When a single parent becomes a top comedienne, what happens to her two needy kids? Patchy comedy with tears. Director, Nora Ephron. Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366).

**THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD:** Adventures of a Chinese girl (Rosaline Chan) sent to a Gold Rush mining town. Slidly packaged mush: an American TV movie writ large. Director, Nancy Kelly. National Film Theatre (071-928 3232).

**DANCE**

**THE DREAM/TALES OF BEATRIX POTTER:** Two works by Sir Frederick Ashton make up this Royal Ballet double bill. *The Dream* is a delightful and poetic distillation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Beatrix Potter* was a popular 1971 film, here being given its first live performances in a new stage adaptation. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tonight, 7.30pm, next Sat, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

**MAYERLING:** A rare chance to see the superb Stephen Jeffries in one of his finest roles: the doomed Crown Prince Rudolf in Machiavelli's sensational ballet of sex and death in turn-of-the-century Austria. The fine Lesley Collier is his mistress Mary Vetsera. Royal Opera House (as above), Thurs, 7.30pm.

</



# I must forsake the tractor, and plough my furrow alone

I never pays to go to plough with a heavy heart. The furrow is too narrow to accommodate human regret and remorse: it has its work cut out even to find room for the large feet of the cart-horses. They have their moods, too, when ploughing, but it only ever seems to be willingness or idleness. I can never detect in the horse's attitude that he has much going through his mind other than thoughts of getting back to his manger.

That is not to underestimate his intelligence, for a good plough-horse is a clever beast. He knows precisely where to walk, when to turn, where to pull, while sensing the mood of the man steering the plough. Well, I must admit that my cart-horses have had some pretty glum moods wafting in their direction this ploughing season, and if I have appeared in any way ungrateful for their gargantuan efforts, I apologise.

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

The ploughing has been grim this year. We have been deluged with rain on a scale I have not witnessed in my short farming career. Arid ditches have become raging torrents, rainwater hangs in puddles in the hoofprints left by the horses, the sheep are turning meadows into quagmires.

After the long drought, the rain is welcome. But its effect on the ploughing has been disastrous because the soil is so wet that it has ceased to behave like soil should, and has taken on the texture of an over-moist Christmas pudding. Consequently, in the same way that a gooey pud sticks to the spoon, the earth is clinging to the plough as though its life depended on it; and even if it relinquishes its clench on



the breast it will not fall away as a well-behaved slice of soil should. Instead of collapsing neatly against the previous furrow, it stands stubbornly upright, heavy, moist and immovable, so that the full weight of a boot against it is necessary to get the cursed earth to lie down.

What makes this depressing for the ploughman is the thought that for all his efforts to get horses and plough repeatedly along the field (I walk 11 miles to plough one acre), he might be wasting his time. For the purpose of ploughing is to tuck away last season's soil and bring to the surface fresh earth in which to plant the seeds. This trick works only if the ploughman turns the land completely: if he merely



stands it on end, as I seem to be doing, last year's crop will grow again, along with a flourish of weeds. Disaster for the organic farmer who has no chemical remedy to check unwanted regrowth.

I am doing my best, and so are the horses in what is turning out to be a strenuous phase of the year. But there are areas in which I have not done my best, and I am paying the price. The field I am now

ploughing grew wheat and oats last year. The wheat was successfully cut with our binder, a lightweight device compared with a modern piece of farm machinery. But I was not so lucky with the oats. A rain storm in July flattened them, making cutting with a binder a near-impossibility.

So my neighbour brought his combine-harvester, then his tractor and heavy trailer to take the grain, then a bigger tractor and baler to gather the straw, and finally another trailer to cart the bales. I pay the price every time my plough hits that patch of land, because where the un-pressed wheat grew, we fling the soil aside with the ease of a child playing in a sandpit, but as soon as we meet the strip where the oats grew, the horses groan and my hands can hardly keep the plough on course through the compacted earth.

Old and new technology cannot

be mixed. A heavy tractor sprinted along one of our farm tracks recently and left ruts so deep that as soon as they freeze they will be sure to make a horse stumble. He was doing a job the horse could easily have done had I found time and made the effort. Now the track is a sorry sight and will stay that way until spring. By contrast, the field from which we carted mangel-wurzels for three days solid, using horse and cart to remove an estimated 20 tons, show no marks of anything having been across it.

Every time I trudge the furrow, I bitterly regret allowing tractors on the land. Their speed and power does not compensate for the scars they leave on this little farm. Every furrow makes me want to pledge never to have one here again. But I doubt I have the strength to resist it. We are not all jolly fellows following the plough. I am sorry if I have spoilt your biscuit-tin lids for you.

## Free love in the turkey yard

Robin Young finds a farmer making a lot of birds very happy — at least until they meet their end at Christmas



THIS is not just a story about Christmas turkeys. It is also a story about sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll, for those are all factors that help to determine the way turkeys are raised for the Christmas table.

Sex is something most modern turkeys know nothing about, because breeding policies have made the "stags" so big-breasted that they are physically unable to mate. The hen, mounted by a sexually mature male bird, cannot take his weight and collapses. The stag, unable to reach her, no matter how he tries, gets over-excited and is liable to die of a heart attack.

Even when turkeys do mate normally, the success rate in fertilising and hatching the eggs is only about 20 per cent. Applying artificial insemination, turkey breeders expect 97 per cent success as normal. Almost without exception, therefore, commercially raised birds nowadays are the results of artificial insemination.

The exceptions are just 70 birds now under sentence of death at a farm near Brentwood in Essex. They are the progeny of sexually liberated parents, raised by Kelly's Turkeys of Danbury, Essex, to the special order of Richard Guy of the Real Meat Company in Warminster, Wiltshire.

Mr Guy's company specialises in ethical meat products. "We put the principle first and determine the price second," Mr Guy says. It follows that the Real Meat Company's turkeys suffer none of the indignities, discomforts or cruelties (save the terminal one) inflicted on their intensively farmed counterparts.

Most turkeys are factory-farmed, like broiler chickens.

Others are pole-farmed, which means that the birds are kept in a shed but allowed natural light and some room to move. Factory and pole-farmed birds have their beaks trimmed, or removed completely, to stop them pecking each other to bits. "Turkeys are naturally very active," says Mr Guy. "If they are not let out into the open early in life, they get bored and irritable and start pecking each other."

Mr Guy's birds do not have to undergo "de-beaking" or "beak-trimming" because they range freely. At liberty to roam over a field pecking at stones, weeds and fence-poles, they feel no need to pick bits out of each other. "If you see a bird described as being free-range with a trimmed beak," he says, "you know the description is not to be trusted. The two are pretty well a test for each other. Fully free-range birds have complete beaks."

Nor do Mr Guy's turkeys, raised for him at Brentwood by David Bealand, live on drugs. Most modern turkeys do. No fewer than 24 drugs are routinely added to turkey "starter crumbs" and feed to promote growth and to inhibit diseases. The turkey's pharmacopoeia is, in fact, more liberally stocked than that for any other farm animal, although the labels advise producers to withdraw medicated feeds at least a few days before slaughter.

The Real Meat Company is one of relatively few free-range producers that abjure all drugs and feed additives throughout the birds' life. "I was boasting about this rather loudly," Mr Guy says, "when I was challenged by Clare Druce of Chickens' Lib, the pressure group. She said I would not have made any turkeys' life complete until I allowed adult birds some sexual fulfilment."

Mrs Druce does not have happy Christmases. She

thinks turkey farming as practised in modern Britain is barbaric. Debeaked turkeys, she says, experience "phantom limb syndrome" in the same way that a human who loses a limb can feel that it is still there. "It is a horrible mutilation," she says.

On the other hand, she is unhappily aware that when turkeys are kept in close proximity to each other, they peck each other's eyes out. "I have seen videos of factory-farmed turkeys cannibalising each other," she adds.

She is not much happier about artificial insemination, which happens two or three times a week and, she says, causes the males great stress.

Mr Guy says he was never greatly concerned about artificial insemination before, although among his company's products it is only the turkeys who depend on it so completely. "Most dairy cattle are bred by artificial insemination," he says, "but we have so many welfare concerns about dairy beef that we do not touch any of it. So our beef is the work of real, live bulls."

"Our pigs, I think, are almost all done by boar power, our sheep are still tupped by rams and cockerels rule the roost over the chickens. Only the turkeys had been missing out completely."

To rectify the wrong that Mrs Druce had identified, Mr Guy ordered some naturally generated turkeys for this year. They are Norfolk Blacks, an old-fashioned pure line breed that remains capable of coition because the stags do not grow much bigger than 15 lb.

So hit-and-miss a method is natural copulation among turkeys, though, even when they come from slimline breeds such as the Norfolk Black, that the marriages consummated



Doing the turkey trot: David Bealand checks the active, free-range stock enjoying their liberty before gracing the Christmas dinner table

among Messrs Kelly's turkeys on Mr Guy's account resulted in only 70 young birds. "We had hoped for 150," Mr Guy says ruefully.

Reverting to old-fashioned love-making in the turkey yard carries its price. The premium price Mr Guy suggests for his full-beaked, free-range, additive-free turkeys this year is £3.49 a pound. The 70 birds that are the product of natural sexual union will be 50p a pound more, but at least people who eat them may be comforted by the thought that they helped make one old turkey very happy.

● The Real Meat Company, East Hill Farm, Heytesbury, Warminster, Wiltshire, can deliver naturally conceived turkeys overnight at £3.99 a pound, plus a delivery charge (mainland UK) of £3.95. Orders: 0985 40436.

## Call of the gravel pit

Feather report

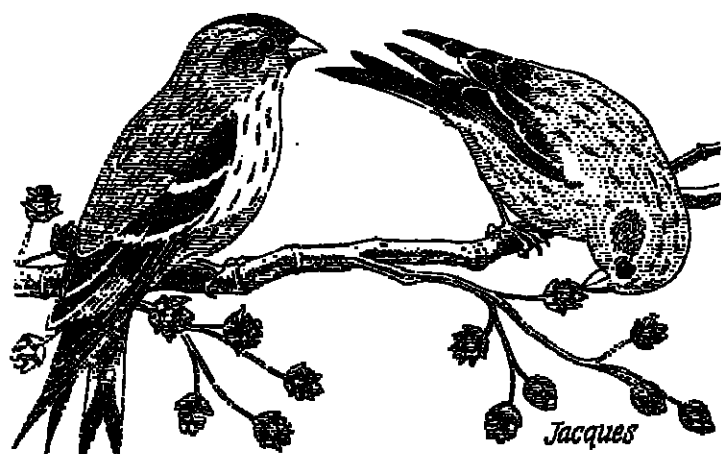
OLD flooded gravel pits are where birdwatchers should be as winter closes in. The alder trees along the shores are bursting with life. The alders themselves look quite different from the bare trees around them: their branches are thick with this year's knobbly seed cones and next year's purple catkins.

All seems quiet, then, suddenly, the sky is full of small birds that fall into the alder crowns with faint, sweet calls. A flock of siskins has arrived. In no time they are hanging upside-down under the cones, working away at them with their tough little bills.

They are agile and dainty green birds with two distinct yellow wing bars. Their forked tails are very noticeable as they cling to the dark twigs. With the sun on them, the males can be picked out by their black caps and black bills. They have all probably come south from Scotland, where they nest in the conifer forests.

Something startles them, and the whole flock goes up with a twanging murmur. Then they sweep around, and are back in the boughs again.

But one bird looks different. It has a gold wing bar, and its head is red and white. There are goldfinches in the flock, too, a little larger than the siskins, but almost as acrobatic. Mixed in the flock one may



Agile and dainty, with two yellow wing bars: the siskin

also find lesser redpolls, much the same size as the siskins and feeding on the alder cones in the same way, but brown with a red cap. The redpolls tend to separate from the other birds in the air and fly off with a hard, rattling call, unmistakable once heard.

Out on the water in the pit there is also plenty of life. Most noticeable will probably be the cormorants. In recent years they have started coming inland more and more in winter. In the London docklands they stand on the top of cranes and look down at the river. In the country they perch on dead trees at the edge of lakes.

They are large birds with snake-like necks and long beaks with a hook at the end.

Often they open their wings to dry them. The wind rocks them when they are poised like this. Then they dive again, particularly pursuing eels, or they float in the water with only head and green eye showing.

On every part of the water, coots plod about in an independent-minded way. A showier drifts off cautiously when it notices humans. There is perhaps a little grebe diving among a stretch of water plants: whenever it comes up, it is in an unexpected place, and hardly says long enough to show its crimson neck (flashing as winter comes on) and its curiously fluffy rear.

Black-headed gulls are going up and down, scream-

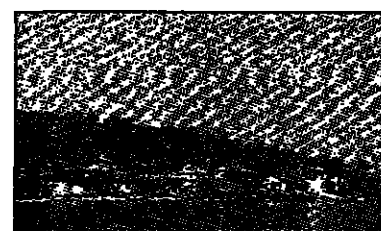
ing all the time. One or two lesser black-backed gulls brood on the far shore, not far from a snipe that is sleeping there with its long beak tucked under its feathers. The markings on its back are among the most beautiful of all British birds: the chestnut feathers are flecked with yellow, and crossed by long, creamy stripes.

As the short day goes by, the scene changes. By mid-afternoon, the gulls are starting to leave for their roosts, winging lightly away in small groups. Some of the cormorants may be off to a bridge across a river, where they will feel safe from marauding foxes. Duck are staring their flight to other pools. But the snipe is probing again in the mud, and small birds are coming in. Pied wagtails are dropping into the reed beds, linnet into dense bushes.

In the dusk, a late gull cries, some wigeon that have just landed whistle softly. The only avian sound as darkness takes over is the "chink, chink, chink" of the roosting black-birds, restless to the last.

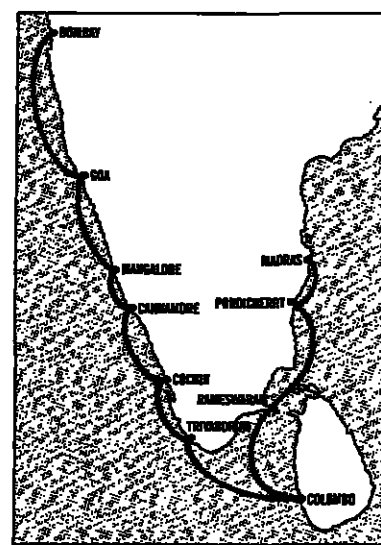
DERWENT MAY

● What's about: Birders — look out on flooded fields for wandering flocks of teal and wigeon. Twitchers — pied-billed grebe on Argal Reservoir, nr Falmouth. Details Birdline 0898 700222.



How better to explore the south of the great Indian sub-continent than aboard a ship sailing from the Coromandel to the Malabar coast. A voyage of discovery past the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu as well as a visit to Sri Lanka with its hill city of Kandy.

The south of India is little visited in comparison to the well worn circuits of the north, partly this is due to the more difficult geography but also because of a misinformed view that it is a land of dreary temple ruins. Nothing could be further from the truth. The south is wonderfully exotic



and compared well with anything the north has to offer. Unlike Northern India, the south has escaped the ravages of invaders through the centuries, its



history therefore more peaceful and stable, influenced by traders in spice rather than wars. The people are charming and open and less influenced by western ideology, their festivals and colourful lifestyles, their music and dance make a visit unforgettable.

Days ashore in lush tropical countryside will be filled with sights of dynamic temple architecture, impressive forts, reminders of Portuguese and British colonialism and a fascinating culture of a truly Hindu flavour. Such journeys by air and road are immensely tiring and the benefits of a cruise along this coast are self-evident.

## INDIAN COASTAL JOURNEYS

A COAST TO COAST CRUISE AROUND THE SUB-CONTINENT LINKING MADRAS TO BOMBAY

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DAY 8 Colombo sail 13.00 hours  
DAY 9 Trivandrum 10.00 to 17.00 hours  
DAY 10 Cochin 07.00 to 18.00 hours  
DAY 11 Cannanore 08.00 to 20.00 hours  
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DAY 13 Goa 09.00 to 22.00 hours  
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# Bake your cake and send it

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, suggests some seasonal cakes that travel well



NOT long ago, I received a cake through the post from a friend in Alabama. It was a Pepper Patch Original Tennessee Topsy Cake. A rich, brown, moist fruit cake, as soft and crumbly as a pudding, its main ingredient, at first mouthful, seemed to be Tennessee's favourite sippin' whiskey; the other ingredients were listed on the box and, after we had finished it, I decided to make my own. The soft, caramelously taste and fudge-like texture comes after long keeping, I decided, but mine wasn't around long enough to test that.

Not having pecan or bourbon to hand, I used broken brazil nuts and rum. I also made the cake batter in the food processor, very quickly, as the original cake did not have large chunks of fruit or nuts in it. If you plan to keep or send the cake, it will take even more spirit.

Cakes in the Anglo-Saxon or northern European tradition stand up well to being sent as gifts. Indeed, in the days of the mail coach, much of the baggage must have been made up of foodstuffs, exotic fruit and spices leaving London for the provinces, and wholesome pies and cakes being sent by the country cousins for deprived townsfolk.

Yeast-based cakes and rich fruit breads keep well and are sturdy enough to be sent by post, train or plane. I have travelled to the Far East with Christmas cake, and from America with my mother-in-law's nut roll. Here, then, are some cakes to make for presents, or to keep for Christmas. They are extremely easy.

The "stollen" recipe, a German Christmas favourite, is excellent for a leisurely breakfast. I rushed home to make one after we had been given it for breakfast by our friend, Martine, a brilliant cook and one half of T&W Wines of Thetford in Norfolk. I made the mistake of using bought-in marzipan the first time I made it, a pointless short-cut,

since home-made almond paste takes so little time and effort to make and is infinitely superior. The spiced bread and Christmas ale is a Yorkshire tradition. Serve it from now until Twelfth Night. Black bun is a Scottish speciality for first-footing on New Year's eve, when you will, you hope, open your door after midnight has struck to a tall, dark stranger bearing gifts of coal, salt and bread. Malt whisky is the traditional accompaniment. Buck's fizz with the stollen is not a bad idea.

**Stollen**  
3tsp/15g dried yeast  
8fl oz/200ml warm milk plus pinch of sugar  
1lb/455g strong plain flour  
1/2 tsp/2g salt  
1/4 lb/100g butter  
grated lemon rind  
8-10oz/230-280g mixed, dried fruit, chopped to even size  
3oz/85g chopped almonds  
1 free-range beaten egg  
**Marzipan**  
1/2 lb/230g ground almonds  
1/4 lb/110g caster sugar  
1oz/30g melted butter  
sufficient egg white to bind together

Sprinkle the yeast on the milk and leave until it froths. Sift flour and salt into a bowl, and rub in the butter. Add the lemon, fruit, almonds, and then the yeast mixture and egg. Mix to a dough, and knead for ten minutes. Cover, and leave to rise until doubled in bulk. Knock back, and knead the dough for a few minutes, and roll into a long oval. Roll the marzipan into a cylinder, and place down the length of the dough slightly to one side. Fold over the dough, and pinch down to seal. Place on a greased baking sheet. Cover with a clean, damp cloth, and leave to rise in a warm place for 40 minutes or until doubled in size. Bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 6 for 30 to 35 minutes, until well risen and golden brown. Transfer to wire rack to cool. Dust with icing sugar before serving.

**Spiced bread and Christmas ale**  
(makes a 2lb/approx 1kg loaf)  
12oz/340g plain flour  
1/2 tsp ground allspice  
1/2 tsp freshly grated nutmeg  
1/2 tsp ground ginger  
pinch of salt  
7oz/200g lard, butter, or sunflower margarine  
7oz/200g light muscovado sugar  
2tsp baking powder  
2tsp dried instant yeast  
1lb/455g mixed dried fruit  
1 free-range egg, lightly beaten  
about 7fl oz/200ml warm milk and water, mixed

Sift the dry ingredients together into a bowl. Cut in the fat, and then rub it in. Add the sugar, baking powder and yeast, and then the dried fruit. Mix in the egg and milk. Spoon into a lined, greased loaf tin, and bake for three to four hours in a low oven, pre-heated to 150C/300F, gas mark 2. Allow to cool in the tin before removing, then wrap and store. Serve sliced and buttered, with Christmas ale.

**Christmas ale**  
(makes about 1pt/570ml)  
1pt/570ml ale, such as Theakston's  
2 free-range eggs  
1-2tsp light muscovado sugar  
freshly grated nutmeg

Warm the ale in a saucepan. Beat the eggs, sugar and nutmeg together in a bowl. Pour the ale over the egg mixture, and whisk together. Strain into a saucepan, and stir over a gentle heat so that the mixture does not curdle. Serve hot or cool. Another version of this recipe can be made with mead replacing the beer, which is, I think, even nicer.

**Topsy cake**  
10oz/280g unsalted butter  
10oz/280g dark muscovado sugar or molasses  
4 free-range eggs, lightly beaten  
1lb/455g self-raising flour  
pinch of salt  
1/4 lb/110g desiccated coconut  
6oz/170g chopped pecan nuts  
1/4 lb/10g raisins

1tsp pure vanilla essence  
3-4fl oz/85-110ml bourbon or rum  
milk

Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and flour alternately. Stir in the rest of the ingredients, except for half the spirit, and add enough milk to give a soft dropping consistency to the mixture. Grease and line a loaf tin, and spoon in the mixture. Smooth the top, and bake for two hours in a pre-heated oven at 150C/300F, gas mark 3. Allow to cool in the tin. Pour the remaining spirit over the cake, having poked holes in it with a skewer. Cover the cake with foil, and allow to stand in a cool place until the spirit is absorbed. It will keep for several weeks in greaseproof and foil.

**Black bun**  
**Dough**  
3tsp dried yeast  
1pt/580ml warm skimmed milk  
2lb/900g strong plain flour  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/4 lb/340g unsalted butter

Sprinkle the dried yeast on to the milk, and let it work for 10-15 minutes. Sift the flour and salt, cut in the butter, and then rub in until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Mix in the yeasty liquid, and knead it until smooth on a floured work surface. Place the dough in an oiled bowl, cover with a clean tea towel wrung out in hot water, and put it to rise in a warm draught-free place until doubled in size. However, as with any yeast baking, if it suits your timetable better, let it rise in a cold place over a longer period.

**Filling**  
1lb/455g currants  
1lb/455g stoned raisins  
1/2 lb/230g stoned chopped prunes  
1/2 lb/230g chopped figs or dates  
6tbsp coarse marmalade  
1/4 lb/110g flaked almonds  
2tsp ground cinnamon  
2tsp ground cloves  
2tsp ground ginger  
1tsp ground cardamom  
6-8tbsp whisky

**Glaze**  
1 free-range egg yolk  
1tsp skimmed milk

Mix the fruit, spices and whisky, and leave to soak while the dough is rising. Divide the dough into two pieces, one piece half the size of the other. Flatten the larger piece on a floured worktop and lay the fruit on it. Knead fruit and dough together until thoroughly incorporated, and draw it together to form a bun. Roll out the other piece of dough to a circle, large enough to enclose the bun. Place the bun in the centre of the dough, and wrap the edges towards the centre. Pinch to seal it. Line a 10-12in/25.5-30.5cm cake tin with greaseproof paper, and put the bun in it, smooth side up. Cover with a damp tea towel, and let the dough prove for a further 30-40 minutes. Prick all over with a larding needle or skewer, right through the cake. Glaze the surface, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for about two hours.

## Best of British to your door

Stock up the Christmas larder without leaving home

Where I grew up in Yorkshire, there was a village shop, as well as visits by the mobile library, the fish van from Grimsby, the Co-op van selling dry goods and the green-grocer's van, to mention the daily milk deliveries from the local farm.

What happens today in my own corner of north London? A refrigerated van from an organic farm in Somerset comes every Thursday to sell sausages and bacon to the local deli and individual customers. The same day, a flower-seller from Holland parks his drop-sided refrigerated van so you can see the bundles of blooms in large pigeonholes, a fish van from Grimsby calls every Friday, vans deliver mineral water every day and the milk float, with all the lines it carries, looks more and more like a general store.

Local shops are good and branches of the large multiples are within easy reach. Yet it is a real luxury to be able to buy food from the person who grows or produces it. With efficient mail order and courier services, that luxury is now available to all. There is almost no food you cannot get delivered to your door.

Here are some of the people I have dealt with and some whose products I am happy to recommend:

● **OYSTERS:** Loch Fyne Oysters, Clackmannan, Clackmannan, Argyll (04996 217, fax 04996 234).

● **IRISH OYSTERS:** Irish oysters — farmed Pacific oysters or the flat, round native oysters — can be delivered within 24 hours. Pacific oysters are available year-round. Prices vary according to quantity ordered.

Cuan Sea Fisheries, Sketrick Island, Killybeg, Co. Down (0238 541461). Shore-to-door overnight service.

Redbank Shellfish, 140 Tabernacle Street, London EC2A 4SD (071-379 1845).

Atlantic Shellfish, Ross-



Arriving home with the milkman: deliveries the old way (from the film *Girdle of Gold*)

more, Carrigrohilly, Co. Cork (010 353 21 883248). Oysters flown overnight from Cork to Heathrow: 24-hour delivery service. Atlantic also acts as agent for Chieftale in Cork, which smokes distinctive Atlantic salmon.

● **SALMON:** The wild salmon season is over until next spring. But for those who cannot do without, I recommend salmon from Northern Ireland farmed in open sea with strong tides and low stocking levels.

Glenarm Salmon Farm, Northern Salmon Company, Glenarm, Northern Ireland (0574 841691).

Steve Downey, of Heritage Foods of Bristol (0275 462676, fax 0275 462279), which normally specialises only in wild salmon, distributes the fish in Britain.

Simply Salmon. Several Farm, Arkesden, Saffron Walden (0799 550143, fax 0799 550039) for smoked salmon and other food gifts.

● **EXOTIC FOODS:** Exotic Specialty Food, 8 Sycamore Centre, Fell Road, Sheffield S9 2AL (0742 611318, fax 0742 617375). Retail, as well as mail order, unusual and useful cook's hampers with various themes, such as Japanese, Indian, Southeast Asian,

Cinco Dias, Suite 117, 1 Lamb Walk, London SE1 3TT (071-403 1137, fax 071-403 1129), specialises in Spanish products, particularly from Catalonia, including honeys, olive oils and cava. Most dealing is wholesale only, but saffron is sold by post. For £7.50, including postage and packing, you will get 4 grams. The saffron is good-quality, and 4 grams will make plenty of paellas, risottos, saffron buns and fish soups.

Thoby Young, Fresh Food, (tel. and fax 071-402 5414). As the name indicates, fresh food is his speciality, including fish from Cornwall, seasonal British cheeses, organic meat, French poultry and the excellent Wild Blue pork I wrote about recently.

● **ORGANIC MEAT:** The Pure Meat Company, Mail order (tel. and fax 0345 581 463). Specialists in conservation grade meats.

The Real Meat Company, Easthill Farm, Heytesbury, Wiltshire (0985 40501). Chicken, pork and turkeys from the firm's own farm, as well as meat from farmers who follow its code of practice — about as far as possible from factory farming. Heal Farm, Kings Nympton, Umberleigh, Devon

(0769 572077, fax 0769 572839). Anne Peach specialises in old-fashioned rare breeds, non-intensively reared with her own recipe for feed, which is free of hormones and antibiotics.

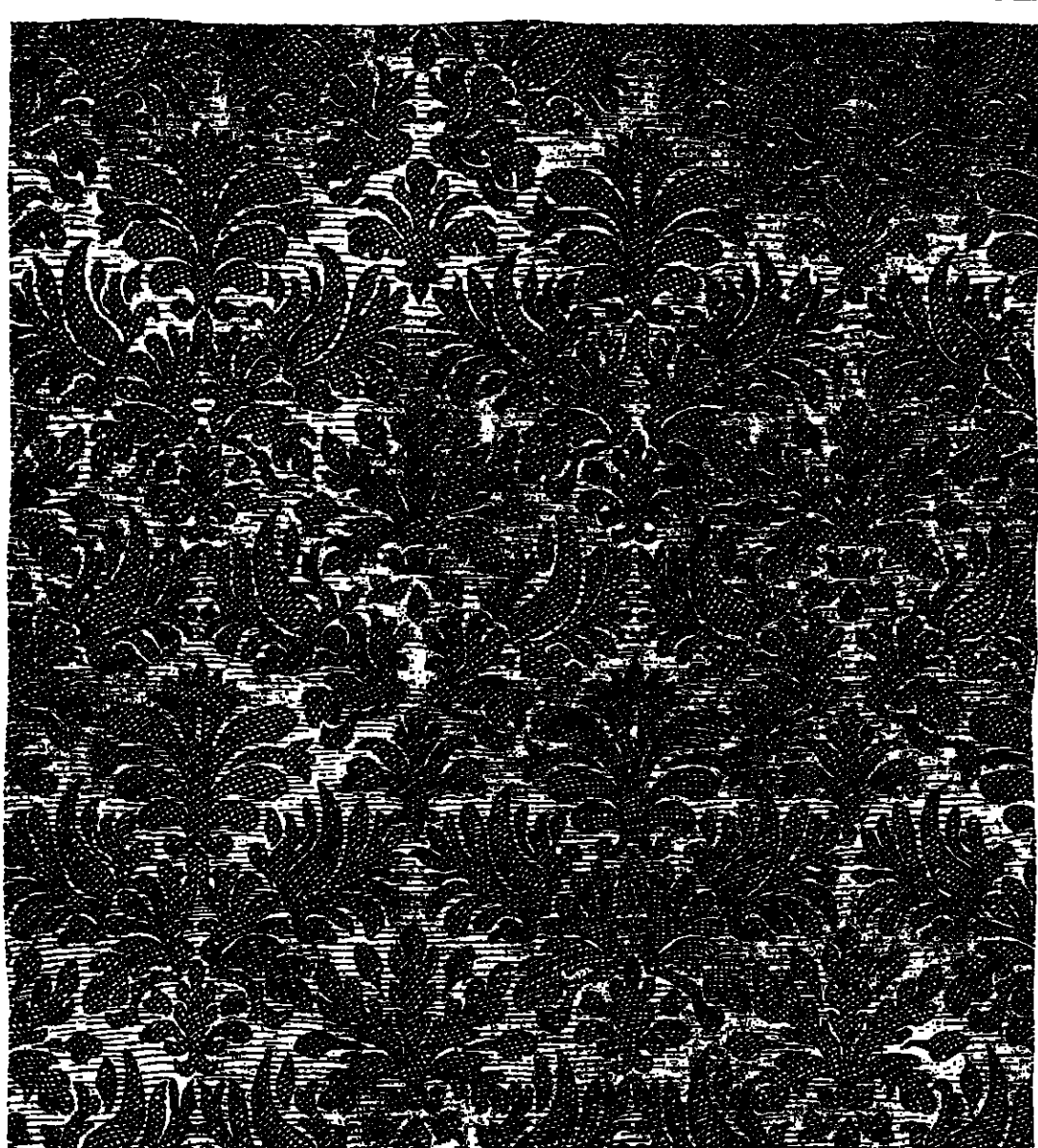
Highland Venison Marketing, Grantown on Spey, Morayshire (0479 2255, fax 0479 3055). Sells wild venison.

Swaddles Green Farm, Hare Lane, Buckland St Mary, Chard, Somerset (0460 234387, fax 0460 234591). Bill and Charlotte Reynolds, the owners, farm organically.

Goodman's Geese, Walsgrove Farm, Great Witley, Worcester WR6 6JJ (0299 896272). Judy Goodman keeps an ever-growing flock of free-range geese, available over-ready from Michaelmas to Christmas.

For more information about organic meat, consult the Soil Association, 86 Colston Street, Bristol, Avon BS1 5BB, or UKROFS, Food from Britain, Market Towers, New Covent Garden Market, London SW8 5NU (071-720 2144). For information about conservation grade meat, consult the Guild of Conservation Grade Producers at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire CV8 2LG.

R.B.



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# Hotlines to the wine experts

Let the merchants do the packing.  
**Jane MacQuitty**  
dials for help



DO NOT fret. With only three shopping weeks to Christmas, the wine trade should be able to handle the selecting, wrapping and delivering of presents for you.

This year, some merchants, desperate for eleventh-hour sales, are happy to take Christmas orders as late as December 15. All you have to do is make a few phone calls and sign some cheques.

Berry Bros & Rudd (3 St James's Street, London SW1, 071-396 9600) is not the cheapest wine merchant, but it is reliable, so the cinnamon-scented '85 Château Talbot magnum (£39.65) from its two dozen gift parcels is not to be sniffed at. Neither is its plummy '66 Gould Campbell port with a 10 oz jar of Paxton & Whitfield's stilton (£29.50). Postage and packing is £4.50 an item; orders must be in by December 7.

Across the road at 61 St James's Street, London SW1, lies Justerini & Brooks (071-493 8721). Berry's arch and equally pukka rivals. Better value festive wines here include the two-bottle Moselle and Claret case (£15), the six-bottle Muscadet and 11b smoked Scottish salmon pack (£49), plus the bottle each of own-label Sarrey champagne, chablis, and warming '86 Château Beaumont claret (£39). Prices include delivery; last orders December 7.

If you are after swanky packages, Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly, London W1 (071-465 8666), will oblige — at a price: its gentleman's gift box — a silver decanting funnel, plus the glorious violet-scented '77 Taylor's port — costs £80. Carriage £7.50, last orders December 7.

Style-conscious wine lovers will put gloriously colourful vine and grape-strewn silk waistcoats (£65) and ties (£19.50) from Adams at the top of their list. For a truly memorable gift, why not wrap one around a bottle of Adams' classic '90 Pauillac (£13.20), Château Latour's 'third wine', or a sensational Sainsbury plum and cherry-layered '90 Pinot Noir Reserve (£16.50)? Adams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk (0502 724222). Charges vary; pre-Christmas orders before December 15.

Buying presents for men can be difficult. Try Dow's 1970 vintage port, plus a pack of Montecristo tubos cigars (£75 from Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1 (071-251 4051)). Delivery



"... And bring me wine": Alan Perry, foreground, and Peter Gunn, cellarman for Berry Bros & Rudd in London, selecting stock for Christmas

£8.20; orders by December 14. Davidoff, 35 St James's Street, London SW1 (071-930 3079), has the same idea with half-bottles of the robust and excellent '87 Quinta do Noval LBV, accompanied by two Montecristo cigars for £36.90. Townies should contact Bibendum at 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 (071-722 5577), for free delivery of cases within the M25 area, as well as in Yorkshire and surrounding counties. Best festive bets here include the fruity Lonsdale Ridge Australian fizz at £3.99 and Bibendum's own-label Veuve Delaroy champagne at £8.99. Last orders December 22.

As usual, The Wine Society, Gunners Wood Road, Stevenage, Hertfordshire (0438 740222), offers the best festive collection. But you must be a member. If you hurry an application through before Christmas, you might acquire the Society's Celebration Case (£23), with its rich, nutty '82 Celebration White Burgundy and smoky '85 Celebration Red. Or what about plum pudding and a bottle of a Muscat St Jean de Minervois (£15)? Nobody will be disappointed either with two bottles of the society's splendid, aged own-label champagne — Alfred Gratien's '88 vintage — due to rise in price in January. Prices quoted include delivery; last orders December 7.

Scrooges should seek out Lay & Wheeler's '92 gift pack selection, whose plummy claret, port and zesty champagne own-label trio (£27.60) looks

more generous than the price tag, as does the firm's Christmas table trio (£19.95). This offers the fine, musky '89 Château Brondeau claret, a smoky, buttery '91 Mâcon and the delicious, intense, nettle '91 Martinborough Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc. Lay & Wheeler is at 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex (0206 764446). Charges vary; orders by December 16.

Other keenly priced festive hooch can be had from Tanners, at 26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire (0743 232007), whose Christmas claret trio of '88 Haut Sociendo, '89 Roc de Montpezat and '89 La Sablière is good value in a gift box at £20.50, as are the bottles of '91 Côtes du Rhône from the Vaqueyras co-op, and a '90 Ribesheimer Herrlich Kabinett (£11 for the two). Delivery free within 50 miles (outside area free for orders above £75), otherwise £6; last orders by December 16.

Yapp Bros, the Old Brewery, Mere, Wiltshire (0747 860423), offers, as always, useful Christmas savings including the 12-strong party package containing six bottles of a fresh, white '91 Saurmur and fruity red '91 Gamay de l'Ardèche for £49, saving £6.50 on prices. Charges include delivery; festive orders by December 14. After all that effort, why not reward yourself with a fruity, cherry-packed magnum of '91 Georges Dubouef beaujolais in an especially Christmassy bottle? (Le Nez Rouge, 12 Brewery Road, London N7, 071-609 4711, £10.99).

## BEST WINE GIFTS

● Lonsdale Ridge £3.99, Bibendum, 113 Regent's Park Road, London NW1  
● Lay & Wheeler champagne/claret/port £27.60, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester Essex

● Lay & Wheeler Christmas table trio £19.95  
● Tanners Rhine and Rhône £11.26 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury  
● 1991 Georges Dubouef Beaujolais magnum £10.99, Le Nez Rouge, 12 Brewery Road, N7.

## FOOD SPY: SMOKED SALMON

### Hooked on the best

SALMON, the prince of fishes, is kin to the proletarian herring. Both are from a group known as the *Isopodidae*, and go back millions of years. So the herring and the salmon are both old enough to smoke, and they are smoked in large numbers.

Christmas and New Year is the smoked salmon season, when our consumption of the delicacy leaps tenfold. Smoking a salmon is simple. You soak the fish in brine, split it into two sides, remove the spine and smoke the sides over oak chippings. The process is called cold-smoking, because heat plays no part in the preserving of the fish. This is achieved by the drying action and the presence of phenols in the smoke. The old system was to hang the sides on a kind of monster tie-rack in a smoker, a shed perhaps 12ft by 8ft. For 12, 14, even 18 hours, depending on the size of fish, the smoke gently penetrated from below. Modern industrial methods use a bigger chamber and the smoke is blown over the fish by machine.

I have to declare myself a traditionalist: the old way seems to penetrate the fish better. Michael Brown

smokes his salmon the old way, using wild fish, some from Scotland, some from rivers in the West Country. His firm, Brown & Forrest, Thorney, Langport, Somerset (0458 251520), sells its smoked salmon by post. An 8 oz sliced pack costs £9.25, an unsliced but boned 2 lb side £36.50. B & F also sells smoked eel and its smoked trout is a very different kettle of fish. It is given a sophisticated taste by adding whisky and brown sugar to the cure.

Supermarket smoked salmon is usually excellent so long as it's Scotch, or Scottish, as it is usually called. The Canadian version, usually Pacific salmon from British Columbia, is cheaper, but it is not quite smoked salmon as we know it. The taste and texture are different; perhaps it should be renamed. It is good, though, in cooked dishes.

Sainsbury's does two styles of Scotch smoked salmon, both really good. The standard version is £12.00 a pound at the delicatessen counter; its Isle of Skye smoked salmon costs £7.48 for an 8 oz pack.

FRANK JEFFERY  
See facing page for more smoked salmon suppliers.



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How to have your festive feast and survive it too

## Calories to cut

ON Christmas day, the average feaster consumes more than 6,000 calories. The overdose of carbohydrates and saturated fats diverts blood from the rest of the body to the over-stimulated stomach and intestines, creating a lethargy that saps energy which might otherwise have been used in exercise to work off the effects. The liver, probably already working overtime filtering alcohol, is supposed to be making bile to process fats arriving in the small intestine. No wonder the merry-maker feels dreadful.



● You can mitigate the consequences. Roast the turkey and potatoes in olive oil, rather than lard. Be selective about trimmings: fresh cranberry sauce, good, chipolatas bad. Why add to waistlines by thickening the gravy?

● Cut the fat further by making a Christmas pudding without suet, butter and flour; add extra wholemeal bread-

crumbs, fruit, nuts, eggs and alcohol instead. Brandy added to a hot pudding and ignited is healthier than brandy butter or rum sauce.

● Mince-meat need not contain butter or suet either, and you can dispense with the fatty pastry case too: simply bake hollowed apples stuffed with mince-meat instead of making conventional mince pies. Try buttermilk rather than cream.

● Clear the Christmas buffet of cocktail sausages, pâtés, gala pie and coleslaw. Bring on smoked salmon, haddock and eel; pickled herrings with chopped onions, dill or mustard sauce; finely sliced hams such as Parma, San Daniele, Bayonne, jamon de Serrano, Black Forest or Tiroler Speck, and vegetable delicacies such as artichoke hearts, dried tomatoes, baked sweet peppers and mushrooms *à la Grecque*.

● If you do eat and drink too much, eat before you drink, and intersperse alcoholic drinks with non-alcoholic ones. Good acid-blocking drugs are available, and after a blowout, a raised bedhead helps to prevent stomach acid making its way up the oesophagus to cause heartburn and indigestion.

ROBIN YOUNG

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## Fillers for under a fiver

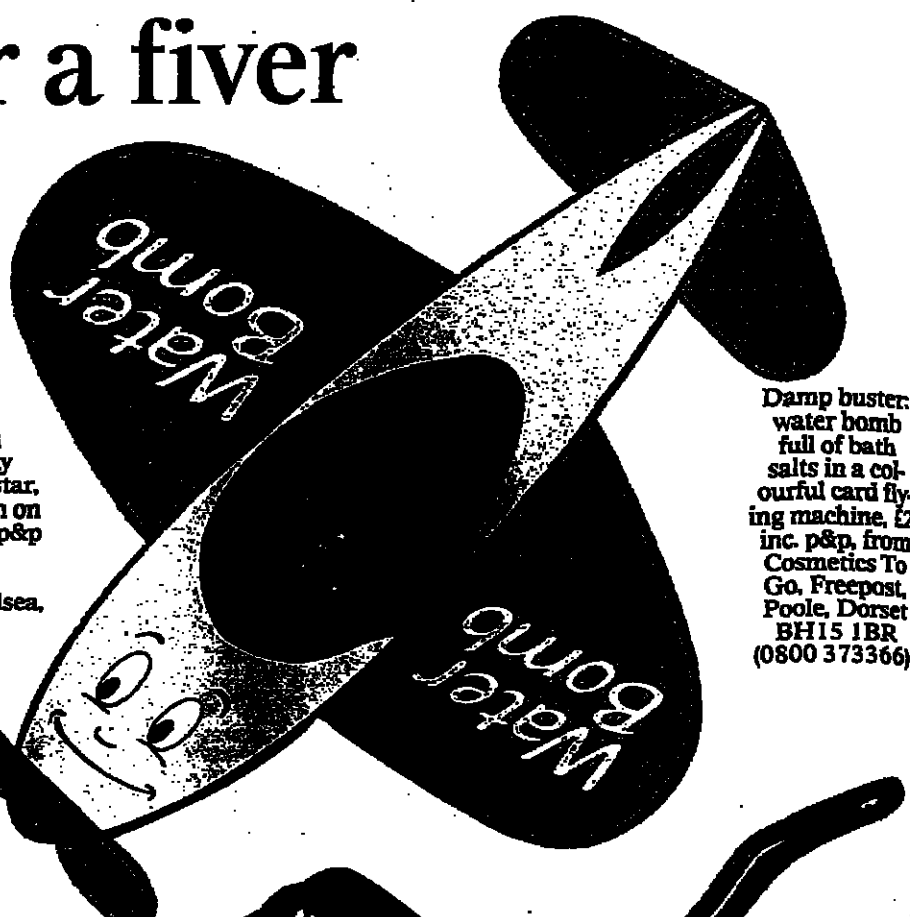
The old adage that the best things come in small parcels is truer than ever, Nicole Swengley writes. The items shown here are available nationwide for less than £5, and all would be welcome as gifts in their own right, or simply as stocking fillers



Breathe easy: mini pot-pourri air freshener (top) £2.75, inc p&p mail order, Lakeland Plastics, Alexandra Buildings, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1BQ (05394 88100). Herbal bath sachets £2.50 each, inc p&p, the Master Herbalist, Broomhill Herb Farm, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire.



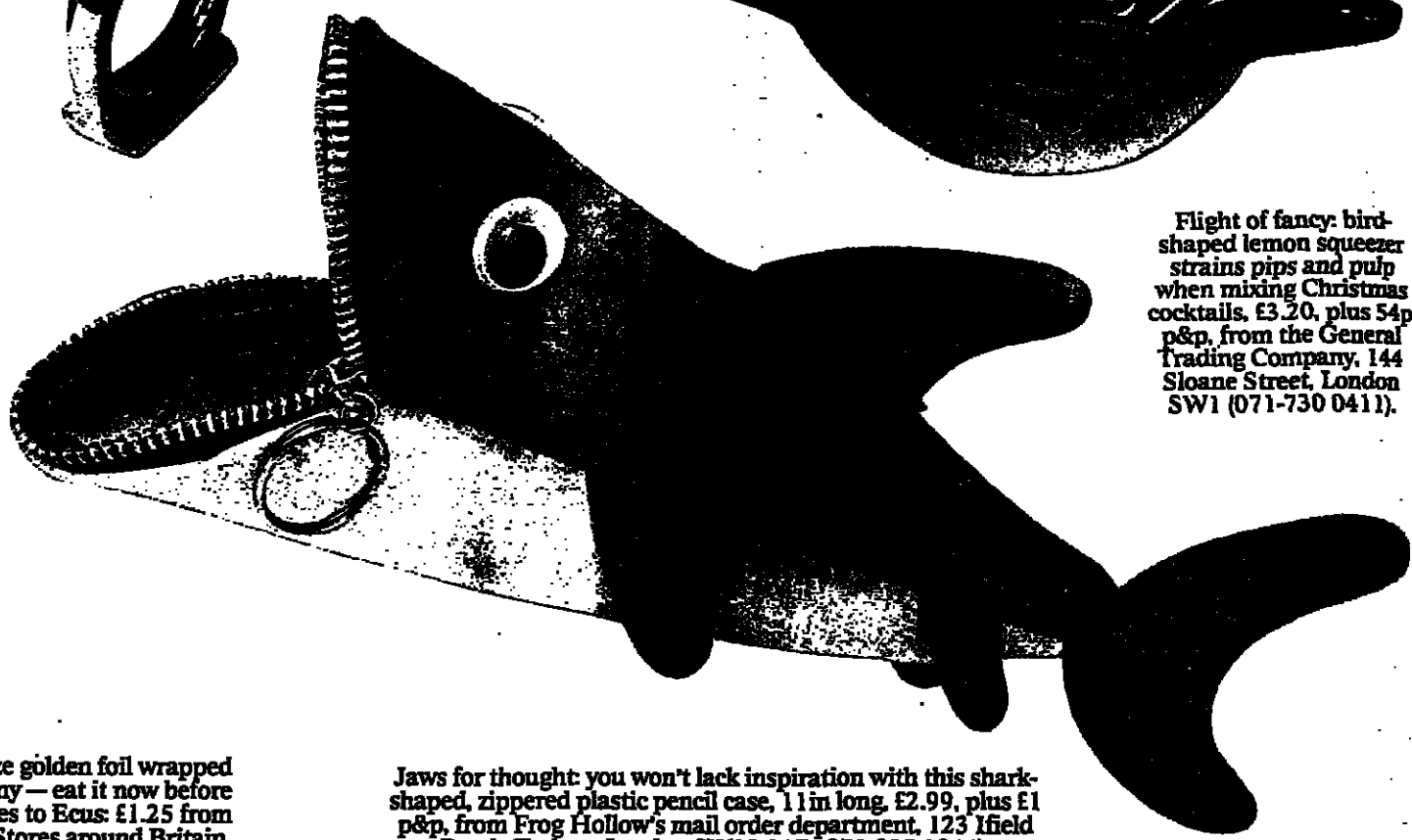
Jingle rings: stylish silver-plated chunky napkin rings with star, sun or moon design on top, £4.95 (plus £1 p&p for three) from the Cowan Shop at 81 Fulham Road, Chelsea, London SW3 (071-589 7401).



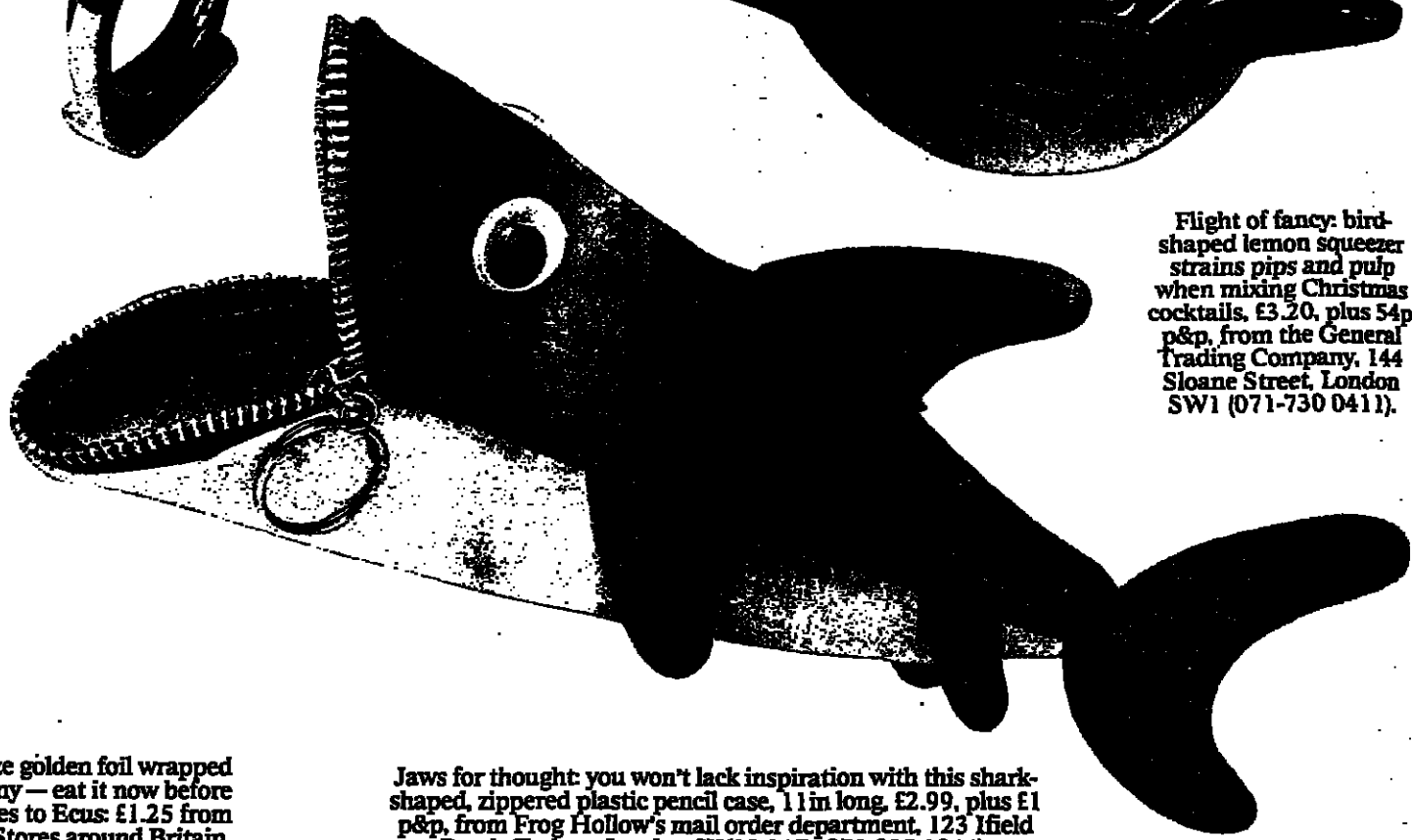
Damp buster: water bomb full of bath salts in a colourful card flying machine, £2, inc p&p, from Cosmetics To Go, Freeport, Poole, Dorset BH15 1BR (0800 373366).



Small change: over-size golden foil wrapped chocolate penny — eat it now before confectionery coinage changes to Ecus: £1.25 from British Home Stores around Britain.



Flight of fancy: bird-shaped lemon squeezer strains pips and pulp when mixing Christmas cocktails, £3.20, plus £4p p&p, from the General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, London SW1 (071-730 0411).



Jaws for thought: you won't lack inspiration with this shark-shaped, zippered plastic pencil case, 11 in long, £2.99, plus £1 p&p, from Frog Hollow's mail order department, 123 Ifield Road, Chelsea, London SW10 9AR (071-835 1944).

071-481 1920

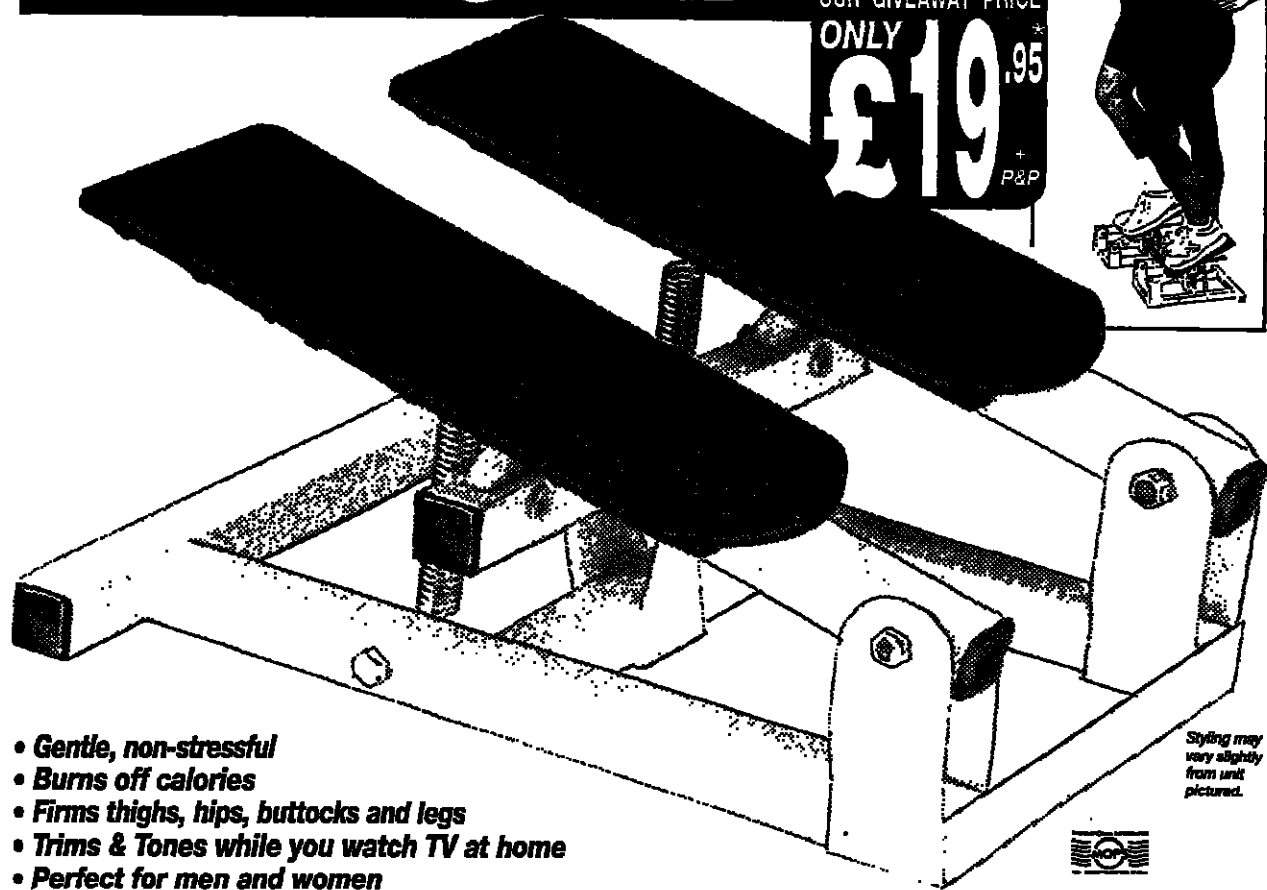
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Continued on Page 8



# Office party animals

Where will the best Christmas bashes be held? Anywhere, except in the office — and the wackier the venue, the better.

Sebastian Goetz and Peter Brown join in



A RECESSION? A slump? No, no, it's December now, and high time to loosen belts that have been tightened all year. Time to put on a silly hat and pull a cracker at the office Christmas party, where, according to a survey by Alfred Marks, a quarter of all office relationships take wing.

But where to hold it? The only place that's out of court is the office itself. That apart, anything and anywhere goes, and the zanner the better. No theme has been left unturned by party organisers, no hall left empty by owners desperate to turn a seasonal shilling.

Some venues come as no surprise. You can have a steamy time at the Kew Bridge Steam Museum (wear your boiler suit). You can sip bubbly in London Zoo's aquarium. But the Imperial War Museum? Yes: thrill at Christmas to a "Blitz Experience". To the sound of falling bombs and air-raid sirens, surrounded by searchlights, revelers are invited to run downstairs to mock bomb shelters. Seats vibrate to the surrounding rumbblings. The party-goers emerge, accompanied by ARP wardens, into scenes of bombed out London, where, presumably, they sing defiant carols.

Even if the personnel manager's budget does not stretch that far — and companies can spend £50 tax-free on each employee at Christmas — the museum's military surroundings alone offer plenty of opportunity for regression into childhood fantasies. According to Suzanne Costello, who organises special

events there — and the museum has played host to such companies and organisations as BP and Friends of the Earth — people have sudden urges to pilot planes which are suspended from the ceiling, and occasionally they try. They also get stuck in tanks.

Many are the hazards of a cool yule. At a hypnotism party one woman, led to believe that her colleague had just pinched her bottom, turned round and whacked him on the skull with the heel of her shoe. Result: six stitches. Hardly surprising that party organisers have to be insured up to the eyeballs.

Themed parties, increasingly popular, hold their own dangers. The managing director who fancies himself as John Wayne at a Wild West event should know that it is all too easy, apparently, to break your coccyx on a mechanical bucking bronco.

A famous advertising agency reportedly held a Christmas party at an ice-rink at which several limbs were broken. The agency has declined to confirm or deny the rumour, but there are clearly dangers in being legless on ice.

Some groups have a natural entrée to the top party places. The parliamentary press corps Christmas shindig has been known to end with children running all over the Chamber, even sitting (don't tell the whips) in the Speaker's chair.

Others less fortunate can improve the look of their venue by hiring an organiser. They can choose between a Viennese Christmas (string quartets, trees decorated with pomegranates and tartan); a Russian Christmas (stuffed bears, snow machine, vodka, balalaikas);



Jolly good company: staff of *The Times* behaving themselves unusually well under the royal gaze last year at Madame Tussaud's

and a Speakeasy Christmas (sky-scraper backdrop). For Reuters, the international news agency, a catering firm called The Moving Venue recreated a newsroom for a black and white Christmas — video screens, monochrome films, huge newscuttings all over the walls. Now wouldn't you think they'd want to get away from all that?

Others stretch their themes with a vengeance. The Arc advertising agency will be in carnival mood in Chalk Farm this year with a South American nine-piece jazz band, two roulette tables and croupiers, a black female Santa and a Salvation Army band.

Some people see children as party poopers. For those who do not, there are many opportunities.

Staff at BBC's QED programme this year will be taking the Santa Special, a one-and-a-quarter-hour ride on the Kent & East Sussex Railway from Tenterden station to Northiam and back. Father Christmas and his band of pixies make their way down the train visiting each child and dishing out gifts. Grown-ups get sherry and mince pies, and there's a specially equipped coach for disabled passengers.

Imperial College, London, runs a huge party for staff and local families each year. "It's half party, half craft fair, very hands-on," says Georgina Kemp, one of the organisers. "Children make kites or Christmas wreaths, and there are science stalls where they can experi-

ment and take something away, or race aeroplanes or cars. There are students and lecturers on hand to help with whizz-bangs. Adults get *glühwein*."

Aided by their latest skeleton, invariably called Charlie, the medical students at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, also provide the children with anatomy lessons, a timely reminder for the adults of the dangers of Christmas party-going generally.

Charlie would presumably enjoy himself at one of the nudist parties organised by Mark Wilson of Eureka in Kent. People, he says, come from all over the country. "We are the only club to call ourselves 'nudist'. All the others call themselves naturist and put their

clothes back on as soon as it gets dark or cold."

There are obvious physical dangers here, though not, one suspects, much sexual harassment, an annual Christmas party problem and one which some companies these days warn their employees about, and insure against. As Roger Vincent, head of legal services at Domestic and General, one of the underwriting insurers, said last year: "People will have to learn to take their hands off bottoms."

At some venues decorum is essential. The smashing of priceless artefacts in the Victoria & Albert Museum's Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Islamic and costume galleries, which can be opened for an extra fee, would not be welcome. It

## Party lines

- The Kew Bridge Steam Museum: contact Lesley Bossine, 081-568 4757
- London Zoo: contact Simon Carpenter, 071-586 3339
- The Imperial War Museum: contact Suzanne Costello, 071-416 5394
- The Moving Venue: Anna Wigglesworth, 071-924 2444
- Santa Special: bookings can be made on 05806 6428
- Eureka: contact Mark Wilson, 0474 704418
- Victoria & Albert Museum: contact Alicia Robinson, head of special events, 071-938 8366
- Madame Tussaud's: contact Alan Roberts, banqueting manager, 071-935 6861 (ext. 218)



is perhaps not surprising that V&A Christmas parties can be themed around the Victorians and their unimpeachable morals.

Madame Tussaud's entered the party business when Jeff Banks was courting Sandy Shaw and wanted to organise a twenty-first birthday party in the Chamber of Horrors. The galleys made an excellent stage for record decks, and the waxwork museum has not looked back since.

The Times, which has formerly caroused at the Imperial War Museum and the Lloyd's building, will be holding its Christmas party at Madame Tussaud's this year, as last. It will finish at midnight, unlike that held by the Scotch Malt Whisky Society, which begins at 3pm on December 13 and ends on some unspecified date thereafter. The invitation: "Three o'clock at the Vaults on Dec 13. It's a hootie we're havin', no' greetin'. Bring a fren' an' some wine. And carouse till yon time. But wear anything red — an' no' cheatin'!" (Translation: hootie/fren', greetin'/moaning, fren'/friend). The main drink is obvious, though there is also plenty of everything else.

Hangovers? The Welsh have an answer. In the remote Gwaun valley in Dyfed, villagers have not yet recognised the Gregorian calendar, preferring an earlier version. They celebrate Christmas on the usual date, but greet the New Year (*Nos Galan*) on January 13, thus giving themselves plenty of recovery time, though both, according to the Fishguard police, are "just an excuse to get pie-eyed".

Pie-eyed? At a Christmas party? Surely not.

# Haunted by ghosts of Christmas repasts

You know you've reached adulthood when parents and children descend on you and expect you to mastermind Christmas. Sue Crewe examines a stressful tradition



SOMEBODY, somewhere may be dreaming of a white Christmas but I'm dreaming of a presentless, turkey-less, tinsel-less Christmas. Every year about this time I have the same recurring nightmare: it involves going to the country on Christmas Eve and becoming aware that I have not made a single preparation. There are no stockings for the children, no presents, no food, no decorations, nothing. It is the mother of all anxiety dreams and may well be showing at a pillow near you between now and December 25.

Between the oblivion of infancy and serenity of antiquity there are several ages of Christmas anxiety. Children worry about the number and quality of presents and whether Father Christmas will fit down the chimney. Lovers are distracted by romance and are tormented either by separation from the loved one or by having to share them with their relations.

After a certain age there is the anxiety of being a relation and later still you can cause a lot of anxiety by being a difficult old relation. The middle years, however, are the vintage years for festive anxiety. It is in these middle years, between being an irresponsible youth and a complaining old body, that you have to drive the engine of Christmas: you plan it, you pay for it, you find yourself *doing* Christmas.

For some people, the strain of it all is too much and they go slightly mad. I have a friend called Poppy who, having no living parents, stays with her husband's family every Christmas. Last year, she and her husband were startled, late on Christmas Eve, to hear a terrible shriek coming from the direction of the kitchen. Rushing to the source of the noise, they found Poppy's mother-in-law weeping disconsolately over the turkey she had been preparing for the oven.

Apparently, for the first time in 30-odd years the butcher had sent the bird without its giblets, and the unhappy woman could see no possibility of making gravy without giblets. The prospect of a gravy-less Christmas dinner was too awful to contemplate.

The upshot was that Christmas morning found Poppy and her husband driving around the deserted Northumberland countryside looking for giblets. Eventually they spotted a live chicken and having, with difficulty, tracked down the farmer who owned it, bought it.



Exhausted by the effort of planning the whole thing: the night before Christmas as depicted on a *John Bull* magazine cover in 1955

With further difficulty they persuaded him to bring the creature's neck, and returned home with gravy-making bits.

Apart from illustrating that farmers will do just about anything for hard cash, this story shows how immutable are the rituals of Christmas and how burdened we can be by their observance.

The first Christmas away from home can provoke the most pierc-

ing anxiety. We are affronted by change; by not having a stocking waiting on the end of the bed. Even a failure to blend chestnuts with the Brussels sprouts can be upsetting.

The way other people decorate their tree or hang up their cards can make them seem very alien. Whereas one's own family is charmingly warm and informal, other people's families

are more likely to be insufferably rowdy and their presents of recycled gardening books the last word in meanness.

Janine di Giovanni, an author and foreign correspondent, will be in Sarajevo this year — the first time ever she has not spent Christmas with her family. Sensing the festival gathering momentum gives her "a nagging feeling". She tells herself to "stop being such a baby" and

that "you can't sit in front of the Christmas tree drinking hot chocolate with your family for ever". When she broke the news, her mother said in "a kind of little voice, 'we'll miss you very much, it won't be the same without you'".

A male friend will not be going home for Christmas because last year, newly divorced and childless, the old familial patterns were reproachful. "Christmas is about

marriage and children, and I'd failed. I thought the family Christmas would cherish me but I felt lonely; if your private life is not good it can be very painful." We all subscribe to the notion that Christmas is for children, but they are relatively easy to make content, compared to the mass of anchorless adults for whom Christmas is the focus of an anxiety that has been welling up since late summer.

For me, the first time I felt an adult was when my mother came to stay at my house for Christmas rather than us going to hers. I staggered under the responsibility; it was the apogee of my Christmas anxiety. I wanted it to be a magical time for my children and stepchildren. I wanted to comfort my recently widowed mother. I wanted to be Mother Christmas to the whole world and carve a tradition of our own that we could forever turn to for reassurance.

So I reproduced the holly garlands and lethal milk punch of my childhood. I herded a surprised household off to midnight mass and sat them down to listen to the Queen's speech. We had the neighbours in and went out carol singing; the dog wore a red satin bow, and in a moment of exhausted frustration, I threw the roasting pan out of the window into the garden rather than wash it up.

There were several Christmases like that and I think they make a happy etching on our collective memory plate. But circumstances change, and this year both my children will be in India and their siblings scattered. It is the first Christmas that we have chosen to be apart and, suppressing a wild urge to jump on a plane to Calcutta, I will content myself with sending out two stockings. My daughter, aged 20, is relieved about that because she does not think Christmas will be Christmas without one. She will open it slowly and deliberately, making her long-suffering brother pay attention to each and every thing.

The Christmas stocking always has been indicative of life's little benchmarks. It does not seem so long ago that I had to haul myself from a deep dawn sleep to admire Father Christmas's offerings with two tiny people squirming with excitement. Then last year, I realised that I was fast approaching my own second childhood when I found myself rattling and clattering in a wake-up-it's-Christmas-morning sort of way. The lumpen young adults were slumbering on and I'd been awake since the early hours, eager to open a present.



Imagine  
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GLENGROYNE  
UNPEATED  
UNPARALLELED



[illegible]



# A dose of unity and tradition

The first in a new series of reviews on where to worship in Britain

The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Street, London WC2 (071-836 7221)

CHAPLAIN: The Rev John Robson, Chaplain of the Royal Victorian Order

SERMON: Moving, modest, with personal appeal\*\*

ARCHITECTURE: Slightly bleak but evocative\*\*

MUSIC: Heavenly\*\*\*

LITURGY: Traditional Book of Common Prayer\*\*\*

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Hand-shake, longer than usual chat with clergy, sherry in the Queen's robing room first Sunday of the month\*\*

People whose faith in the Church of England as part of the one holy, catholic and apostolic church has been shaken by the general synod vote in support of women priests could do no better than take a restorative dose of worship at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy. There the Rev John Robson, the chaplain, is honest enough to admit he once opposed women priests because he believed in paternalism. He has come round. "It has happened under God. We must try to make it work," he said, somewhat sadly, at the end of his sermon on the Sunday following the November vote.

Hitherto unsuspected and enigmatic overtones seem attached to the synod's decision in this chapel, correctly described as a Chapel of Her Majesty the Queen in right of her Duchy of Lancaster. In the rousing rendition of the national anthem which opened the service we sang: "Long live our noble Duke", as a reminder that the Queen is also Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

The chapel is sought out regularly by wealthy Americans and other tourists staying in the many hotels on the Strand. It is something of an ascetic shock after the opulence of the nearest, the Savoy, which overwhelms with its stylish gran-

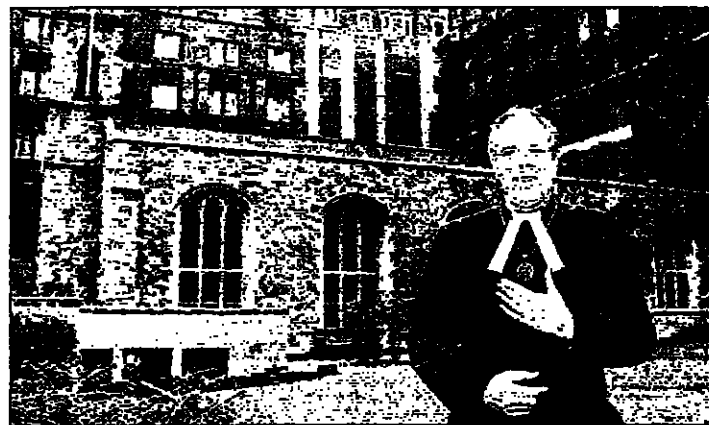
deur. But the warm intimacy of the chapel and the welcoming smiles of the regulars counteract any intimidation by the architecture. On a chilly autumnal Sunday, the oil-fired central heating felt barely adequate, but I was assured by the chaplain that it was up to the luxury standards of the Savoy Hotel.

The chapel is an oasis of traditional church music in today's ecclesiastical cultural desert of the tangle of the Strand. The choir of 14 boys and six men is led by Dr William Cole, the master of music, who has been at the Savoy since 1954, making him one of the Church of England's longest serving men in his field. Like the chapel, Dr Cole seems to have imbibed some miraculous preservative, and appears little changed by the passage of time. The worshippers on my visit were also timeless. Few wore hats, but the 30 or so who were there, mostly middle-aged or older, had donned their Sunday best and travelled in from as far afield as Oxford, Putney and Wimbledon to drink from the regenerative spring of tradition. All were friendly and charming, welcoming the sight of a new face.

A member of the royal family might occasionally drop by informally for worship when in London at the weekend, but congregations are dwindling. The chapel has

been hit by the fall in tourism, especially from the United States. Like so many attractive churches, it is however in great demand by couples wishing to tie the knot. For historic reasons, many are disappointed. The chapel started life as one of three which served an almshouse for "pious, needy people". Built in 1512 by Henry VII, it was taken over by the Duchy of Lancaster in 1772, and in 1937 became the chapel of the Royal Victorian Order by command of King George VI. As such it is now a "free" chapel, without a parish and not falling under any ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Couples need a special archbishop's licence to marry there. Couples who do succeed in meeting the stringent requirements and acquiring one of the sought-after licences get a special reward: they meet for a romantic re-run of their wedding at a special Valentine service each February, when they renew their vows. Thus are many enticed to stay within the worshiping fold.

Historic names associated with



Let us pray: the Rev John Robson, chaplain of the Savoy Chapel

the chapel include the 14th-century churchman Wyckiffe, plus Chaucer, Samuel Pepys and John of Gaunt. It lies in the heart of the five-acre Savoy Precinct, which hosted the 1661 Prayer Book Conference, an unsuccessful attempt to reconcile dissenters and low churchmen to the doctrine and liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer.

Unusually, the chapel runs north and south instead of east and west. The side and north walls are original, but most of the rest dates from 1864, when it was rebuilt after a fire. The roof has been painted to resemble the timber roof which perished in the fire, with an ante-chapel and the robing room for the Queen added in 1958. New

oak panelling was also installed when the chapel was put at the disposal of the Victorian Order, but sadly the pulpit, above which was attached an hour glass to help preachers judge their sermon length, mysteriously disappeared about the same time.

The liturgy is strictly 1662 Prayer Book. Thus we acknowledged and bewailed our manifold sins and wickedness which we, from time to time, most grievously had committed. This was a refreshing change from the more mundane, but more common, Alternative Service Book confession of sins against God and "our fellow men". "The remembrance of them is grievous unto us: the burden of them is intolerable," we said. The congregation may have had the civilised and restrained appearance associated with mainstream Anglicans, but these words were said in as heartfelt a manner as any of the more exotic confessions of personal salvation by the charismatics.

The lasting image I retained from the service was that evoked by the chaplain in his sermon. Mr Robson is a friend of the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Rev Peter Ball, who has preached at the Savoy Chapel. Bishop Ball was the only bishop to abstain during the televised debate on women priests, said Mr Robson: "He pulled his monk's cowl over his head and sat in deep, profound and tortured prayer."

The prayer, hope and belief at the Savoy was that the church should remain united. That this tiny chapel, an island of Anglican spirituality in the midst of central London commerce, remains so strong must surely be a sign that the Church of England, too, can survive its latest upheaval, yet retain the strength and dignity of ancient tradition.

● Sung communion is at 11am on the first Sunday of every month, and on the third Sunday when a month has five Sundays. Otherwise, it is sung matins followed by a short said communion. Members of the public are welcome.

071-481 1920

## SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

FAX 071-782 7828

### LADIES

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## WHAT TO WEAR

When you grow out of cider swigging and unsubtle chat-up lines, what constitutes a good party? Julia Llewellyn Smith finds out

# Roaring teens, boring twenties

When Ruth, William, Damon and Henrietta were 15, no party was complete until they had swigged a whole bottle of cider, snogged the first body available, and ended the evening by being sick in the bushes.

Time has passed. Ruth, William, Damon and Henrietta are now 23, and find themselves at parties balancing glasses of Beaujolais on a plate which also holds two cocktail sausages, a votive and a miniature onion bhaji.

They all agree that parties are not what they used to be. "I hate having to stand around asking complete strangers what they do. It was much more fun when you just got down to it and snogged them," complains Damon, a journalist. "I prefer dinner parties, where you can talk properly to people and get to know someone new quite well: or clubs, where you can just dance. Parties are a horrible mixture of the two."

Damon, who is young and free, but slightly tired of being single, knows that the past is another country, where they do things differently. "You grow out of that kind of thing, 15 times bitten twice shy and all that." But he admits that meeting "babes" is still at the back of his mind. "The only thing different from my teenage years is that everyone is more subtle these days. Instead of grabbing an attractive girl, with all your mates looking on approvingly, you are more likely to do the 'I live in Camden and you live in Clapham and this party is in Notting Hill, so it makes perfect sense to share a taxi home', routine. Just as unsubtle, but in a different way."

Unfortunately for Damon, there is no male equivalent of the little black dress. "I always think about what to wear to a party, but I always end up wearing what I would in the street." He says he thinks many men secretly enjoy black-tie occasions. "We all end up looking the same, but at least there is more of a sense of doling yourself up. Men miss



LEFT

From left, Damon wears Levi's denim shirt, £38 from Moonshine, Portobello Road; T-shirt, £8 from The Garage, King's Road; jeans, £30 from Camden Market; boots, £70 from Cowboys and Indians, King's Road. Ruth wears trouser suit, £40 reduced from £369, from the British Designer Sale; necklace, £10 from Monsoon; shoes, £25 from Cable sale. William wears suit which belonged to his grandfather; shirt, £5 from Flip; tie was a gift. Julia wears leggings, £27 from Pineapple; shirt, £40 from Jigsaw; boots, £25 from market stall. Patrick wears Debenhams jacket, £120 from Woodhouse; trousers, £35 from Revere; shirt, £50 from Renaldi, King's Road. Henrietta wears shirt, £40 from Warehouse; skirt, £25 from Miss Selfridge; body, £27 from Oasis; earrings, £10 from shop in St Tropez; bracelet, £10 from Next; shoes, £45 from Sacha.

RIGHT

Ruth wears body, £12 from Marks & Spencer; chignon shirt, home-made; trousers, £20 from Camden Market. Julia wears dress, £55 from Hyper Hyper; necklace, earrings, watch, all gifts; necklace, £8.95 from Accessories at Monsoon.

BELOW

William in his grandfather's suit; shirt and tie as above

Photographs by  
Denzil McNeelance

out on that side of things."

Ruth and Henrietta say they spend about 20 minutes getting ready for a party. "That was more fun in the old days too, when your girlfriends came round before the school disco and you all swapped nail varnish and blusher and did each other's hair," says Henrietta. Both have boyfriends and say they go to parties because it is a convenient way to see a lot of people. "At school and college you saw your friends every day, so the point of parties was to meet men," says

Ruth, who works for a photographic agency. "But when you start working your friends are all scattered and it's wonderful to have a big gathering and see everyone."

Neither woman has much money, but both make an effort to dress up. "When I put on my flares and my platforms or my hotpants at the end of the week it makes me feel completely free," says Ruth. "I don't actually wear shoulder pads and stilettos to work, but I behave as if I do — all stressed and efficient. Dressing up for a

party is creative and relaxing and makes me realise the time I have is mine to do what I want with." Ruth shops for clothes in markets or at designer sales, or persuades her mother to make her things.

Henrietta, who works in arts administration, has more expensive tastes, but her clothes last for years. "When I go to a party I like wearing old things I feel comfortable in, with maybe one new thing to boost my spirits and make me feel vaguely fashionable," she says. This year's buy is a pair of

clumpy-heeled shoes, which add at least four inches to her height. "I thought finally I would be as tall as all my friends, but they are all wearing heels too, so it ends up the same," she laments.

The only hangover from their adolescent wardrobes is a disproportionate amount of black. "When you are a teenager black seems rebellious and sophisticated," says Henrietta. "I remember my mother was always buying me things in horrible bright colours, because she thought they were young and fresh and black was tart. Black is best because it's not too flamboyant, and it makes you look thinner and more elegant."

The four wonder what teenagers get out of parties. "I don't think the kind of party where you say so-and-so's family is away, let's all go round there and break into the drinks cabinet exists any more," Ruth says. "These days they are all taking Ecstasy, which kills their sex drive, and raving the night away in warehouses in the middle of the country. Our wild, cider-drinking youth seems so sweet and innocent in comparison."



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And forty reigns since Domesday, it is fascinating how relevant it remains. Indeed it was last consulted for legal precedent as recently as 1982.

Of the 13,418 places mentioned in Domesday all but a handful can be traced today. So it is possible to get a unique picture of your own village, town and county all those many years ago.

But if Domesday itself is unique this new edition is no less so.

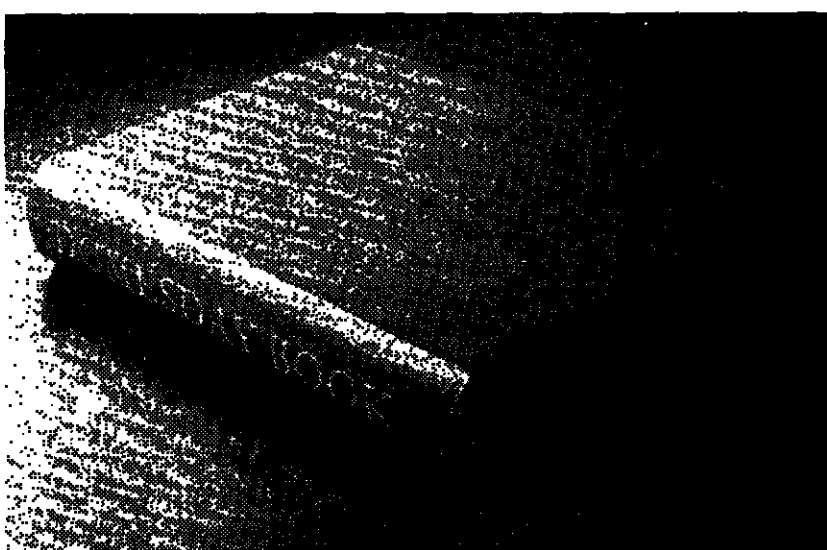
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Indeed at the presentation of the first copy Lord Hailsham commented, "This remarkable facsimile is so close to the original that to most people it is impossible to tell the



THE COUNTY EDITION. QUARTER-BOUND IN LEATHER. LIMITED TO 1000 COPIES.

difference." The first copy now rests in the Royal Library at Windsor. Only 250 of these complete Editions were ever printed and they cost £7,500 each.

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The County Edition is therefore, like Domesday itself, unrepeatable.

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This volume also includes a full introduction to your county as well as indices of all the people and places mentioned.

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PUBLISHED BY ALECTO HISTORICAL EDITIONS AT THE INVITATION OF THE KEEPER OF PUBLIC RECORDS.



BREAK CHRI

If the sound of jingle bells is less than music to your ears, es

## Santa-free zones

- Hotel Nelson, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich NR1 1DX (0603 760260). Bah-Humbug Breaks, Dec 28-Jan 5, any three nights £58.50-£67.50 per person, accommodation, breakfast.
- Chagford, Devon TQ13 8HH (0647 432367/432225). No organised programmes at Christmas or New Year. Rooms and suites £270 to £550 including dinner for double occupancy.
- Youth Hostels Association, Trevijuan House, 8 St Stephen's Hill, St Albans, Herts AL1 2DY (0727 55215). Hostel winter lettings are bookable through the three regional offices: northern England (for hostels from Peak District to Scottish borders), Maitock (0629 823850); southern England, Salisbury (0722 337515); Wales, Cardiff (0222 396766). The Scottish Youth Hostels Association, 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling FK8 2JA (0786 51181) operates a similar scheme.
- Stakes Holidays, Wroxham, Norfolk, Norfolk NR12 8DH (0603 783221). Other agencies with country cottages available for Christmas include English Country Cottages, Grove Farm Barns, Fildesham, Norfolk NR21 9NB (0328 851155).
- Butterfield's Indian Railway Tours (0262 470230).

## How to duck the season's greetings

How do you escape Christmas if you are a modern and unrefined Scrooge? It is not easy. If Christmas at home is a daunting prospect promising a dreadful scenario of warring relatives, kitchen disasters, and an excess of alcohol, pudding and television, then staying in a hotel scarcely promises peace on earth either, because most hoteliers feel divinely inspired to organise programmes of non-stop party-hat action, with not only Father Christmas but also carol singers, bellringers, Dickensian actors, mummies, pageant players, pantomime cats and the local hunt all coming to add their bit to the general hullabaloo.

Even the Nelson Hotel in Norwich, which advertises a Bah-Humbug Break designed for curmudgeons who dismiss the festive season as a total bore, proves on inquiry only to start the package after its house-full of Christmas merry-makers has safely paid up and departed.

The Bah-Humbug Break, or Salute to Scrooge Christmas, is offered not during Christmas Eve to Boxing Day, as one would mean-spiritedly have hoped, but between December

28 and Twelfth Night, when non-celebrants are invited to pay just £58.50 per person for any three nights (£67.50 in superior rooms) on the assurance that their lives will remain jingle and carol free during their stay.

In previous years the hotel provided a bowl of gruel each evening with a guarantee that it would be served without all the trimmings, and the management suggested that a wake-up call could be arranged each morning in the form of clanking chains and Marleyan groaning outside the bedroom door.

This year's incentives, though, are a jar of English mint humbugs (for spitting contemptuously at winsome urchins), a souvenir photograph of the local tax office, and the opportunity to tour not only that hard-headed institution but also the local water-works and prison too. Guests will also be presented with a copy of Dickens's classic volume A Christmas Carol (hero: E. Scrooge), which is quite a good book until the end when it turns hopelessly soppy.

The glorious Gildale Park Hotel at Chagford in Devon, on the edge of Dartmoor and

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To book or for further information call Reservations on 071-486 5800 or write.

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LONDON

PORTMAN SQUARE LONDON W1 TEL: 071-486 5800  
\*2 persons sharing a room. Breakfast and VAT included.





FROM  
MAS



With Robin Young to find some peace and quiet on earth



No ho humbug: Paul Henderson (left) and Shaun Hill get in the mood at Gidleigh Park

within easy tramping distance of plenty of abandoned pagan negatins, manger-less hut circles and bleak stone rows, promises to keep Christmas as low-key as possible too.

It has hung Christmas decorations on the ground floor, admittedly, and will have turkey and mince pies available on Christmas Day for those who require such cliché food, but otherwise owner Paul Henderson's only concession to the season of goodwill is an extra course on chef Shaun Hill's set menus, in recognition of the fact that over Christmas the unavailability of supplies necessarily curtails guests' choice.

"We have never organised anything special for Christmas," Mr Henderson says, "and people seem to like it that way."

The unChristmassy approach, the excellence of Mr Hill's cuisine and the unmineralised comfort of Gidleigh's rooms and suites certainly seem to have appeal since, despite prices which run up to £350 a night for two including dinner, the hotel is already fully booked for Christmas itself, though a few rooms are still available within the extended holiday period.

If there are enough like-minded Christmas refugees in-

ten on getting away from it all, one possible solution is to hire a youth hostel and declare it a Christmas-free zone. This year for the first time the Youth Hostels Association (0727 55215) has decided to rent out its smaller hostels during the winter, when they would previously have been closed. Hostels with from 18 to 40 rooms are available from as little as £100, and, although those in the south-west have long been fully booked for Christmas and New Year, a few may still be available to serve as safe havens from Christmas in less favoured parts of the kingdom.

The price is £1,099 — which is more or less what Christmas is likely to cost anyway if you invite the family to join you, isn't it?

devoid of ready-made Christmas extras, which is more than you can say for some cottage holiday lettings these days. The Blakes Holidays (0603 783221) brochure, for example, includes properties marked with a snowflake indicating their year-round suitability, and for Christmas several carry the promise of turkey, mince pies, trees and even presents laid on — which anti-Christmassians will find a complete turn off.

A broad, possible ways of getting away from it all include Butterfield's Indian Railway Tour, leaving a week today and not returning until January 4, by which time Christmas will be all over bar taking down the decorations. The tour will rattle through southern India from Madras, and then follow the west coast to Goa and Bombay, where any nativity scenes encountered are more likely to be real-life ones than icons of religious or commercial idolatry.

Or, for something completely different from the standard-issue British Christmas, you could head down under with Ausbound (book through travel agents), who can whisk you from Garwick to Queensland on December 12, take you to visit a working cattle ranch (no little strangers in the cowbyres), through the Daintree World Heritage rainforest (not a Christmas tree in sight), and on a crocodile-spotting cruise.

The price is £1,099 — which is more or less what Christmas is likely to cost anyway if you invite the family to join you, isn't it?



CHRISTMAS BREAKS



## Where to go for a merry Christmas away

A gift-wrapped package of suggestions full of seasonal cheer, in Britain or abroad

In principle Christmas is a solemn time of rest, renewal and prayer. In practice it is more often an almighty blow-out involving, for many, an exodus to places of highly organised merriment and jollification, which is perfectly appropriate since the "mas", as in Michaelmas and Christmas, denoted originally the sending away of the unbaptised so that the temple should be pure.

Modern hotels often look like temples, but their purification is generally restricted to the necessary observation of the food hygiene regulations. Many, though, arrange for some religious observance too, by organising trips to candlelit midnight mass and hiring carol singers.

In ecclesiastical terms, Christmas is a feast devoted to a religious anniversary. In our secular world it cunningly mixes mid-winter pagan rituals with the Christian notion of breaking bread together, on a particularly grand scale. It is the last great ritualistic feast which survives in this country, and our best opportunity to rekindle the bond between family and friends by gorging together again.

Here, then, are some of the best places to enjoy a very merry Christmas indeed:

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Cathedral Christmases:** The Lamb Hotel at Ely (0353 663574), a former coaching inn beside Ely cathedral, offers a three-night traditional Christmas break starting on Christmas Eve: £245 an adult full board, with carol singing and a dance evening. Lainston House Hotel, Sparsholt, Winchester (0942 863588) will be taking guests to midnight mass at Winchester cathedral, providing roasted chestnuts, buttered crumpets and muf-fins, mulled wine, a clay pigeon shoot and pantomime in the course of a four-day programme: £625 a person including all meals.

**Supersonic sleighride:** The Lygon Arms, Broadway (0386 852255), the Savoy Group's country house, offers a four-day break including carol sing-ers, mince pies, midnight service, Boxing Day hunt meet and, for the children, rides in the G-Force Simulator which recreates the thrill of riding in a supersonic jet, or Santa's sleigh: £185 a person per day.

**Christmas for golfaholics:** Belton Woods Hotel & Country Club near Grantham, Lincolnshire (0476 593200) is marking the driving range with Christmas trees, dressing Santa in green, presenting personalised golf balls, putting jingle-bells on the golf buggies, substituting a cold turkey picnic out on the course for Christmas Day lunch, and playing golf videos instead of the Queen's speech: £225 a person for a three-day package.

**Christmas afloat:** Avechurch Boat Centres, near Birmingham (021-445 2909), have narrowboats ready pro-



We'll take Manhattan for Christmas: shopping and champagne in the Big Apple

vided with Christmas tree, cake and presents aboard: from £103-£180 a person for a week's hire. Blakes Boating Holidays (0603 782911) can provide cruises on the Norfolk Broads or canal boats: £333 a week for a boat for four to six, or three and four-night breaks from about £200.

**Forte for Christmas:** Forte Hotels are offering four Christmas packages at more than 200 hotels. Gala Celebration Christmases with champagne, silver service gala dinners, dinner dances and visits to the theatre, races or other local attractions: Family Christmases with free room for up to three children, under-fives free, under 16s £29 a day; Christmas Crackers with games, quizzes and singalongs; and Traditional Christmases with carol sing-ers, midnight mass and pantomime. Three nights from about £55 a night (0345 404040).

**Welsh wonderland:** The Alice in Wonderland Trail is one highlight of Christmas at the St Tudno Hotel, Llandudno (where Alice Liddell stayed, aged eight). Others include the Colwyn Male Voice Choir, buck's fizz, laverbread and a Boxing Day race into the sea: four nights from £382 a person (0492 874411).

**Highland style:** The loch-side Ballachulish Hotel, Balla-

chulish, Argyll (08552 606) includes driving disco, heavenly harp and Highland dancing in its three-day programme: from £225 a person.

**Leisurely luxury:** Hanbury Manor, Ware, set in 200 acres of Hertfordshire countryside, has leisure facilities which include a Jack Nicklaus golf course, health spa and three restaurants under the direction of Albert Roux. Carol sing-ers on Christmas Eve, Father Christmas at Christmas Day lunch and a jazz lunch on Boxing Day: double rooms from £75 a person sharing (0920 487722).

### ABROAD

**Logging on:** Le Château Montebello, the world's largest and most luxurious log cabin, half-way between Ottawa and Montreal, has a Christmas getaway available from December 27 to New Year's Eve: from Cdn\$99 (£50) a night. Cross-country ski-trails, curling, snowmobiling, ice-skating, snowshoeing, tobogganing and sleigh-riding. (0101 819 4236341).

**Christmas in Manhattan:** From December 18 to January 31 the intimate Mark Hotel on the Upper East Side near the Metropolitan Museum is offering a special Christmas package — including dinner, champagne and breakfast at US\$360 (£232) a couple, with the second night at US\$235. At

an extra charge the use of a limousine is available for shopping or sightseeing. (Free-phone 0800 282684.)

**The home of marzipan:** Scandinavian Seaways (071-493 6696) features Christmas holidays not only to Denmark and Sweden but also up the Elbe to Lübeck, arriving on Christmas Eve. The Lübeck trip, departing from Harwich on December 23, includes a gala dinner and dance on Christmas Day, meals and cabins on board, hotel accommodation and excursions, and costs £391.

**For music lovers:** Travel for the Arts (071-483 4466) has schemes which include Vienna from December 21-27, with *Marriage of Figaro* at the Staatsoper (€995); and Christmas in the Black Forest, December 22-27, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Don Giovanni* in Stuttgart and Baden-Baden (€895).

**Cruising through Christmas:** Sea Princess leaves Southampton on December 16 on a Calypso Christmas cruise of the Caribbean, calling at Tenerife and Madeira: from £960 (P&O, 071-831 1331). The Cunard Princess's 14-day Christmas cruise leaves on December 19, with Christmas lunch somewhere between Lanzarote and North Africa: from £1,645 (071-491 3930).

R.Y.

A unique set of circumstances has made possible, for a limited number of departures only, a wonderful opportunity of visiting the cities and sights of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Amman, Petra, St Catherine's and the resorts of Tabat on the Red Sea and Agaba, all in the same itinerary. When you consider that the itinerary includes four and five star hotels, half board and a comprehensive excursion programme, the prices represent remarkably good value.

### Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 Depart London for Amman for an overnight stay.  
Day 2 Amman/Petra/Agaba — a full day tour to Petra, stronghold of the Nabataeans from the 3rd century BC until its conquest by Rome in 106 AD. Continue to Agaba for an overnight stay.  
Day 3 Tabat — catch the ferry to Nuweiba and travel on to Tabat for a two-night stay.  
Day 4 St Catherine's Monastery — make a full day excursion to Mt Sinai and St Catherine's Monastery, built on the site of the 'Burning Bush', before returning to Tabat.  
Day 5 Tabat/Jerusalem — drive to Jerusalem for a stay of two nights.  
Day 6 Jerusalem — visit all the main sights including the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and the old city and make a short visit to Bethlehem.  
Day 7 Jerusalem/Amman — drive to the Allenby Bridge and cross back into Jordan. Visit the Roman city of Jerash before driving into Amman for the night.  
Day 8 Afternoon departure to Amman airport for the return flight to London.

## Journey to the LAND of CANAAN



including Petra and St Catherine's Monastery  
8 days from £545.00

| Departure Dates & Prices            |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Mondays 1992 - per person in a twin |         |
| December 14                         | £565.00 |
| January 11                          | £545.00 |
| February 15, 22                     | £585.00 |
| March 1, 8                          | £615.00 |
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Includes: air travel, 7 nights' in 4 or 5-star hotels, half board, transfers, excursions, tour manager. Not included: insurance, visas, £25 tipping. All prices are subject to change.

### How to Book

For reservations please telephone 071-723 5066 and then complete and return the coupon below.

### VOYAGES JULES VERNE

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Our offices are open for telephone reservations on Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 5pm.

**The Land of Canaan**

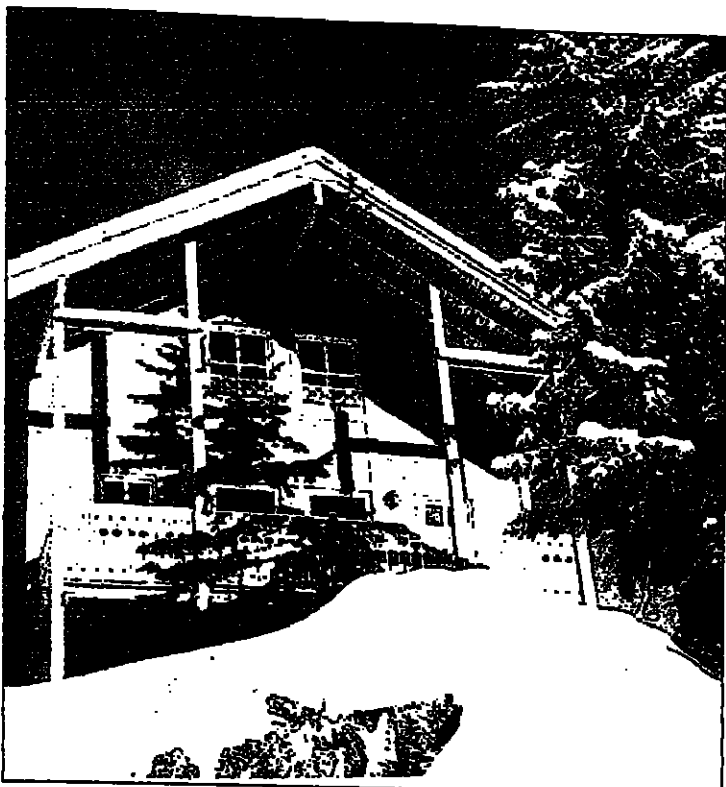
Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ twin(s) and/or \_\_\_\_\_ single(s).  
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 Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I enclose my cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ payable to Voyages Jules Verne, being the deposit of £150 per person and the insurance premiums.  
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Whether it's sand and sunshine or the ski slopes of the Alps, Rachel Kelly suggests festive rental accommodation



Winter wonderlands, worlds apart: rent a chalet in the French Alps for Christmas, or (right) Noble House in Jamaica

## White Christmas for rent



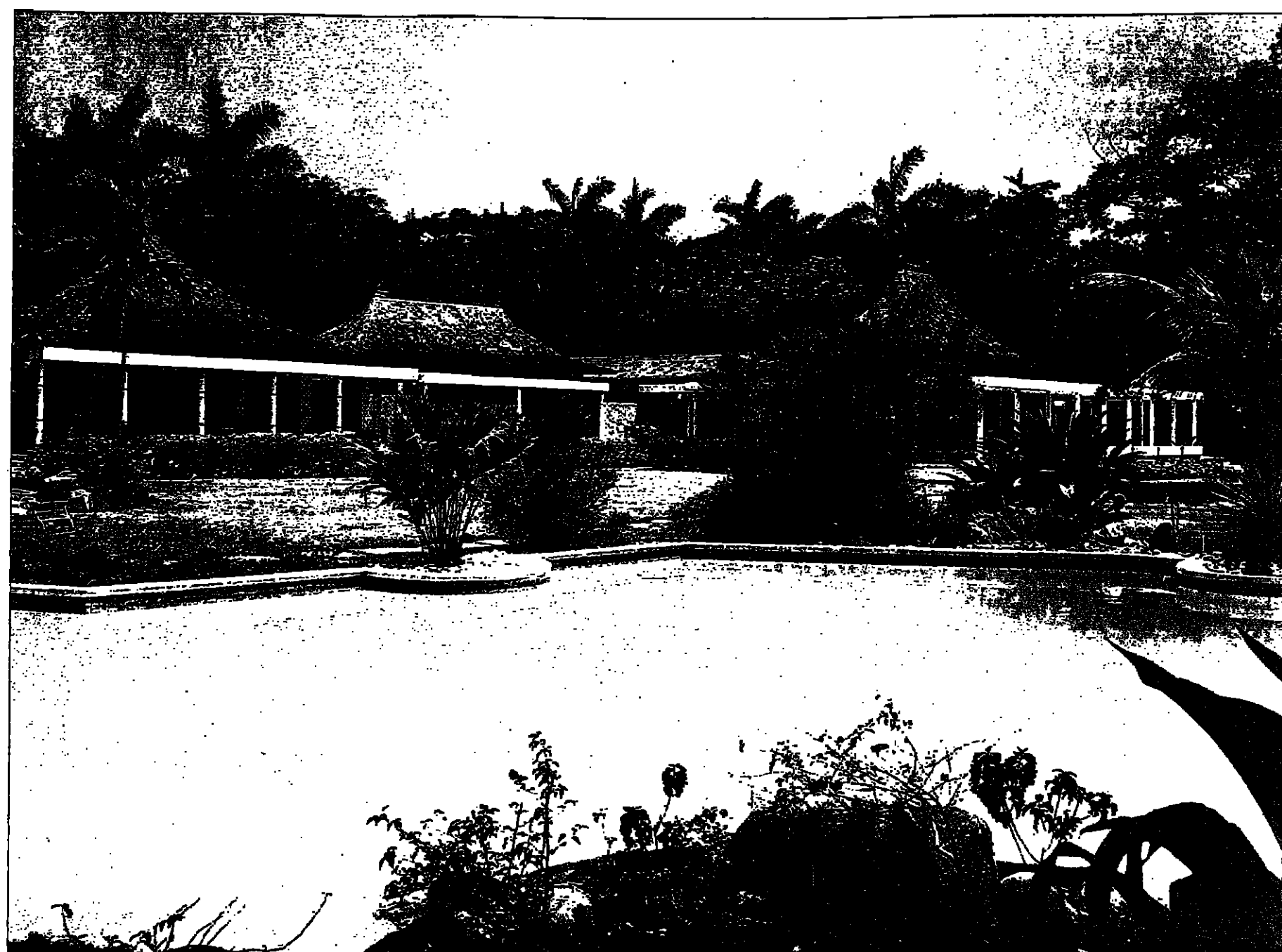
NOBLE House is set in five acres of Jamaican tropical gardens stuffed with bougainvillea and banana and breadfruit trees. Those staying tend to relax in the 90F December heat: strolling the few minutes to the 500ft private beach, or dipping into the limpid pool in front of the rough-tiled, low-slung house, or sipping rum punch on the verandah. They can also, if they so desire, ask cook to prepare a Christmas pudding on Christmas Day instead of curried goat.

That is the joy of renting a house over Christmas: all the advantages of Christmas good cheer and festive fare with none of the miserable British weather. "And if you desire a white Christmas, the beach is whiter than white," says Edward Marquis, from Interna-

tional Chapters, which has Noble House on its books.

A white Christmas more traditionally demands the icy fingers of winter snow. The chances of that are remote. There has been snow on Christmas Day in London only five times this century, and in Manchester only nine times. It is far more likely to be a wet Christmas, thanks to global warming and the modern calendar.

Whether "white" means snow and skiing or a beach and sunshine, the price of renting a white Christmas could be more expensive this year because of our withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. Rental prices in Austria, France and Switzerland are up by about 20 per cent in some cases; in the Caribbean, they are also up because currencies are linked to the US dollar. Post ERM, the pound has slumped from a rate of about \$2 to the pound, to about \$1.60.



Renting through a tour operator can make better sense than answering an ad in the Sunday papers. Peter Dyer, from Crystal Holidays, which has about 120 chalets to rent in the Alps, recommends dealing with a big company which may have been able to buy its currency before the withdrawal from the ERM, as he did. He has thus avoided having to add any extra currency surcharges to his rentals.

Larger firms are also likely to be able to negotiate better deals, since they rent throughout a season. These discounts will, in theory, be handed over to clients.

Mr Dyer still has about 20 chalets for rent over Christmas and the New Year, the very highest week in the high season. He has just launched a brochure of special Christmas deals. Those prepared to

take pot-luck on resorts — who, for example, know they wish to rent a chalet in France but don't mind where — will be offered discounts of nearly £150: from £399 a person per week, including flights, to £259.

Chalets & Hotels Unlimited has the Château de Cran chalet for rent, in Le Hameau de Flaine, up the valley from Flaine itself. It caters for those who prefer informality, says Marion Earnshaw-Sullivan from the agency. "People can stock their own bar with duty free or enjoy a cup of tea when they want."

International Chapters also has a few of its 50 houses in the Caribbean for rent, including Noble house, at £5,350 a week for

eight people. (That does not include flights.) The price is roughly the same as last year: had it not been for the effect of the end of the ERM, the price would have fallen, Mr Marquis says.

That might seem steep, but compare it to the price of renting Necker, Richard Branson's whole Virgin island, which costs \$8,250 a day (about £5,500). And compare it to the price of Jamaican hotels, Mr Marquis says. "Hotels which offer similar levels of service would charge rates of about £2,000 a week per person, though that does include flights. For eight adults, that means that a week would cost about £16,000."

Mr Marquis estimates that the food and drink bills staying at Noble House would be about half those of staying in a hotel such as

The Half Moon in Jamaica, or the Sand Piper in Barbados. "And you're more flexible. You can eat when you want, what you want. I think that's one of the main changes in rented accommodation. In the past, people thought of it as a self-catering holiday, which didn't sound much like a holiday. Now these houses are more like a private hotel. You have got everything to yourself: the swimming pool, the bar."

While the prices of such houses may have gone up because of the end of our membership of the ERM, the compensation is that more are available than in past years, especially once Christmas and New Year are over. Deals will not be up later in the year.

Supply of houses overseas has gone up as those who fail to sell in a

worldwide slump, especially across Europe, let alone, and buyers are scarce. "I've got an awful lot of my clients who are trying to sell and renting out meanwhile," says Mr Marquis, "but I've got practically nobody who wants to buy."

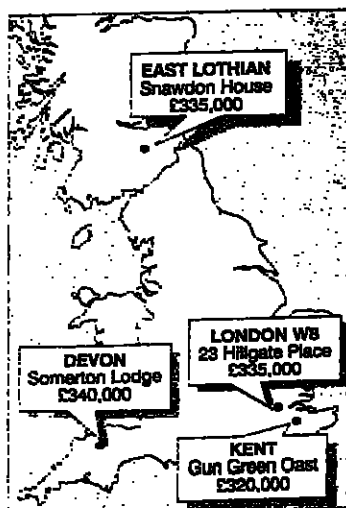
Demand for rented property in the Caribbean, dominated by Americans, has slumped with the American recession. In the Alps, bookings for skiing holidays are 12 per cent down this year compared to last, Mr Dyer says. Even Christmas week, the most popular week in the year, is less busy this year than last. Hurry and you could be enjoying Christmas pudding on the veranda.

International Chapters (071-722 9560); Crystal Holidays (081-339 5144); Chalets and Hotels Unlimited (081-343 7339).

### FOR SALE

about  
£330,000

Caroline Morse  
suggests an ice  
house, oast house,  
cottage or villa



London: 23 Hillgate Place, W8. Four-bedroom Victorian cottage with two bathrooms (including one en-suite), drawing-room, kitchen/breakfast-room. The roof terrace is south-facing. About £315,000 (John D. Wood, 071-727 0705).



Scotland: Snaidon House, Gifford, East Lothian. Detached Georgian residence in five acres of gardens and woodlands. Five bedrooms, bathroom and shower room and three reception rooms. Old mill pond and ice house. About £335,000 (Strutt & Parker, 031-226 2500).



Kent: Gun Green Oast, Hawkhurst. Converted oast house in 6.75 acres. Galleried landing with five bedrooms, three bathrooms (including master suite and guest suite), three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and two cloakrooms. About £320,000 (G.A. Town & Country, 0892 542711).



Devon: Somerton Lodge, Sidmouth. Grade II listed Regency villa in 1.6 acres. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, cellars. Double garage and outbuildings. About £340,000 (Strutt & Parker, 0392 215631).

## A flair for Francophile tastes

Living in France — The Essential Guide for Property Purchasers and Residents by Phillip Holland (published by Robert Hale, £14.95)

For anyone considering a holiday or retirement home in France, or who already owns a property there, Phillip Holland's book *Living in France* is a must. This sixth edition provides a mine of useful information. It offers sound advice on the whole range of administrative, technical and legal details; lists specialised contacts; and gives tips on how to make your garden grow and the right wine to drink with cheese.

Live & Work in France by Mark Hemphell (Vacation Work, 9 Park End Street, Oxford, pbk £6.95)

A detailed survey of opportunities for working and living in France — from the Alps to the Pyrenees and from Calais to the Côte d'Azur. Those planning to work, start a business, or retire in France will find this book covers all the relevant aspects: with advice on French conveyancing, how to find a job, starting a business and raising money. There is also a regional employment guide and a useful directory of major employers in France.

Buying & Restoring Old Property in France by David Everett (Robert Hale, £16.95)

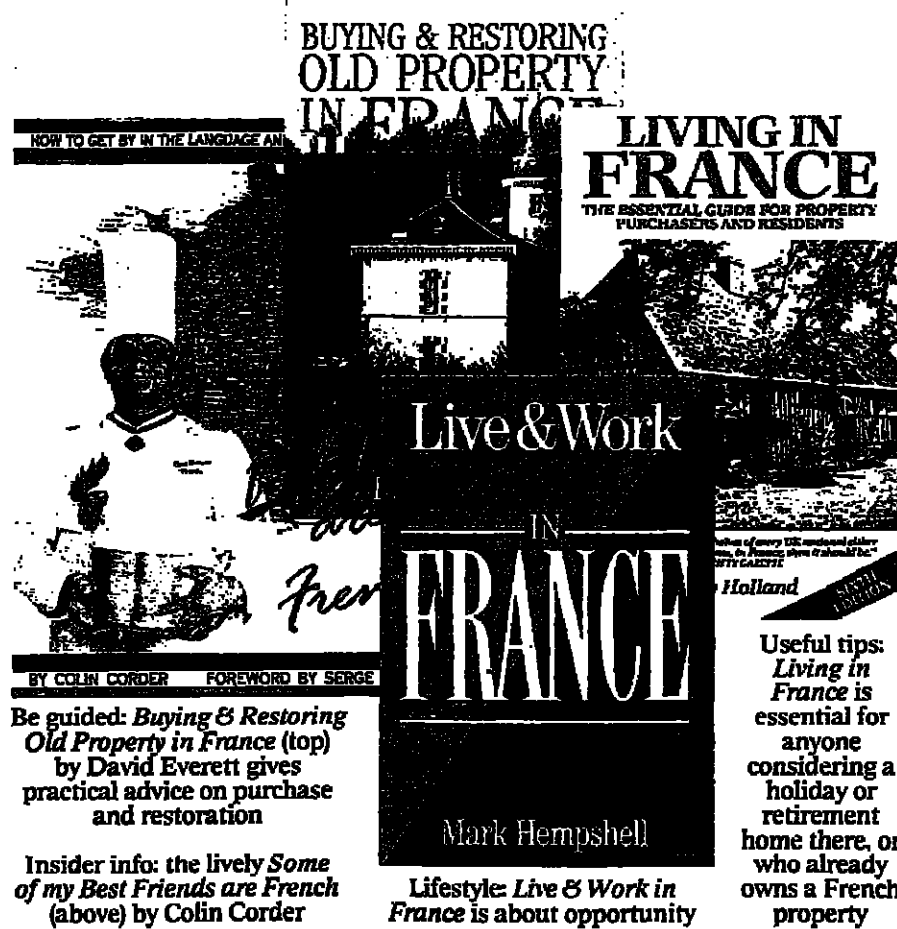
Having bought your tumbledown French farmhouse, this is the book to help you restore it — and avoid the problems and pitfalls on the way. It carries practical advice on all aspects of property purchase and restoration, from what where and how to buy, tackling the French legal system, through plumbing, flooring, finding tradesmen, buying materials and security. There are also lists of useful contacts and suppliers, and a glossary of building terms.

Some of my Best Friends are French by Colin Corder (author and publisher, pbk £9.95)

A very funny book offering a valuable background on French

words that are the same or similar in both French and English. It's a fun book and makes interesting reading and can help beginners and competent French speakers alike to improve their vocabulary.

Gift ideas with a distinctly French flavour for those who need a little encouragement



Insider info: the lively *Some of my Best Friends are French* (above) by Colin Corder

life. Subtitled "How to get by in the language and on with the natives", it is an insider's guide to all things French, written in a lively and amusing style that makes it a pleasure to read. Most of it is in the form of an A-Z from Abbé Pierre ("the Catholic worker priest who concerned himself with the lot of the down-and-outs") to Zola, Emile ("he wrote a series of passionate novels about a family under the Second Empire"), with a wealth of little gems between. This is the book for anyone who needs to know how many times you should kiss a Frenchman, and where to start — or who wrote "Où sont les neiges d'antan?"

It also gives hope to those of us who lack the confidence to speak French badly. An ideal Christmas gift for all Francophiles. If you cannot find it in your nearest bookshop, buy direct from Shelf Publishing, 6 St Albans Road, Codicote, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 8UT (add £1 for p&p).

How to speak 100's of French Words Without Even Trying by Janine Paule-Molynex (pbk £4 inc. p&p). Available from Ms Paule-Molynex, 38 Eastfield Crescent, Badger Hill, York YO1 5JB. This is a dictionary with a difference, containing nearly 3,000

For those who wish to be reminded of the beauty of France year-round, the Hidden Corners of France 1993 calendar from France magazine makes a lovely gift — and can be sent anywhere in the world for £5.95 (inc. p&p). It is beautifully illustrated and full of fascinating facts on all aspects of la vie française. From France Properties Ltd, 9 High Street, Olney, Buckinghamshire, will bring months of enjoyment. It is packed with French properties for sale, together with useful information for prospective purchasers.

Finally, a present for the man (or woman) who has everything except a property in France: a special course on how to set about buying one. Adrian and Lillie Webb use their own experience of buying a French property to explain the procedure and pitfalls to prospective purchasers. They run weekend residential courses from their home in Wiltshire, at which expert guest speakers talk on French conveyancing, the sort of properties available, where to find them, financial issues and how to negotiate. The next "First-time Buyers in France" course is from January 15-17. It costs £150 for full board and lectures (£125 for non-residents), including a gourmet New Year's dinner with French food and wine.

A special offer for *Times* readers gives £25 off the normal price of the course. Contact the Webbs at Cowleaze Padlock, Hartham, nr Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 0PZ (0249 713179).

CHERYL TAYLOR



THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale goes out on a dark, stormy night; Martin Hoyle looks in on a dark, stormy life

# Magical Noh holds Bard

The Tempest  
Barbican

Last week, Michael Bogdanov and his English Shakespeare Company presented *The Tempest* in a rubbish dump somewhere downstream of the Isle of Dogs, thereby depriving the play of all its magic and much of its sense. This week, it has fallen to a foreigner, Yukio Ninagawa, to restore those qualities and bring them to our National Theatre. His production of *The Tempest* occurs on Sado, a remote island off the coast of his native Japan; but it is a place that turns out to be several thousand miles nearer the imaginary mid-Mediterranean, and half-a-billion closer to the heart of Shakespeare's most generous, forgiving play.

Sado has plenty of associations for Ninagawa and his countrymen. It was traditionally a place of exile and it is the island to which one of the founders of the Noh Theatre, Zeami, was banished. It is a suitable enough setting, then, for what the programme calls "a link between the history and cultures of Japan and Britain". Even without a simultaneous translator, it is clear that Shakespeare's text is played pretty much verbatim; yet the style veers from something not unlike Elizabethan realism to Noh itself.

For what it is worth, the pretence is that one of Sado's many Noh companies is performing *The Tempest* under the direction of Haruhiko Joh's Prospero. No doubt some parallel between conjury and theatrical creation is implied. But in practice it seems mainly to mean that the scene-shifters and the supporting actors



From the Bard to London via Japan: a suitably atmospheric scene from Yukio Ninagawa's production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

remain visible throughout. Some of them flail away at drums before the play begins, their faces hidden by devil's masks, and then others run onstage to create the first of many fine stage-effects. Suddenly a prow emerges from the roughly timbered hut in which Prospero lives, followed by a shaken quilt and a falling blue cloth; and there, simply yet powerfully, is Shakespeare's very own shipwreck.

The Noh influence is most evident in a splendid masque scene, with tall china-faced figures undulating and chanting in exot-

cally patterned robes, and in the broad comic sequences. Goro Daimon's Stefano turns out to be a great, shiny hulk, naked but for his apron and a chef's hat; Kenichi Ishii's Trinculo looks like an oriental Easter egg or Japanese Humpty Dumpty; and Hiroki Okawa's Caliban sports wild spiky hair and a long fish's tail, creating the impression of a punk surfer. They go in for leaping, tumbling and loud comic display in contrast with Alonso, Gonzalo and the lords, whose speech and conduct is in keeping with the formal modern

suits beneath their long, colourful doaks.

To be honest, the contrast between East and West struck me as too extreme here; but there could be no such reservations about the central performance. Joh's Prospero exudes gravity and melancholy power, and has come up with an interpretation distinctively his own. The wrongs he has suffered enrage him, so much so that he makes to strike Yoji Matsuda's delicate Ariel with his staff when he gently recommends mercy. But then and thereafter he forces him-

self to lose face: a difficult process, maybe even a heroic one, given the pain that has all along been expressively etched onto it.

That left me feeling how relatively easily modern British actors playing Prospero tend to forgive their enemies; how little they struggle against instincts that the Elizabethans must have found overwhelming. Here, elsewhere, Ninagawa and his Japanese company clearly have something to teach us.

B.N.

## In sickness and in hell

Playing the Wife  
Ustinov Studio, Bath

I think there are two of you," says the playwright August Strindberg to his leading actress. "One of you wants to pretend nothing is going on."

Ronald Hayman's play, which had its premiere at Brentford last month and is currently on tour, dwells much on duality: the love and hate found in one relationship, the rational and irrational in one personality; the difference between reality and truth and how they clash when distilled, or muddled, by the theatrical process.

Strindberg hated women, married actresses, and was driven mad by them. A tortured misogyny permeates his work. Rehearsing with him must have been unrelenting at the best of times, and when the self-obsessed dramatist confronted a player fanatically devoted to a truth that she perceived differently to him, something — perhaps the sanity of both of them — had to give.

The framework for Hayman's play is such a rehearsal. Harriet Bosse, a young Norwegian actress, becomes increasingly unhappy at depicting a character based on Strindberg's former wife.

Parallels extend to the unexpected marriage between the grizzled playwright and his new leading lady. Scenes of deception, disillusion and recrimination in his play echo real life, as Harriet is drawn to a young actor and rebels against her tyrannical husband.

Playwright and actress confront one another in the life versus art clash. She needs the model for her character and resents the unfairness of Strindberg's portrayal. He claims both subjective and objective

justification as it suits him — both first-hand knowledge and the artist's right to change the facts. Heads he wins, tails everyone else loses.

Whatever the historical truth, Harriet's sudden marriage to the playwright never makes sense theatrically; it is a case of life imitating art, bad art. And as Julia Ormond looks and sounds unremittingly modern and emancipated, Harriet's character becomes both a proto-feminist and an irritating exponent of Stanislavsky's method before its time.

She excels when finally quivering with rebellious fury, but until then never gets an exasperating character into complete focus.

Furthermore, the play's treatment of the nature of theatre and its casualties is weakened by the occasional cliché. Strindberg, the omnivorous creator, jots down striking lines from an emotional scene for later use in a play. The plain but devoted dog-body (beautifully played by Jacqueline Morgan) dissolves into tears at her loneliness.

Ultimately, Tim Pigott-Smith's production depends on Barry Foster's portrait of Strindberg, a magnificent combination of nightmare neuroses and brisk professional practicality, selfishness and sensitivity.

Foster has the look of a man whose innards are knotted with intensity, and deploys the frustrated energy of a trapped wasp. The dance of defiance he executes on stage is a dance of death.

M.H.

## Mahler in his own milieu

Some like to think that Mahler's Sixth Symphony bears the scars of his own harassed professional existence at the Vienna Opera. Others prefer to see it as a musical document set to change the face of symphonic art as the century turned.

Whatever may be Christoph von Dohnányi's view, he makes a conscious choice to present his performance (Decca 436 240-2) in an illuminating historical perspective by twinning it with Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces, from 1909, and Webern's *Sommerwind* (1904). No similar coupling exists in the catalogue.

Schoenberg's Expressionist miniatures, with their experiments in controlled improvisation, do for the ear very much what his friend Kandinsky's canvases do for the eye: their clarity and polychromatic panache make Webern's vignette seem a fin de siècle idyll with only the most subtle hints of the shape of things to come.

### CLASSICAL RECORDS

Both works put Mahler's symphony in perspective. So does the Cleveland Orchestra's performance: their first movement is lean and uncompromising, with staccato rhythms and bright brass chording. Mahler intended that the andante should precede the scherzo. In reversing the order, as is common, von Dohnányi lessens the shock of the lullaby following the abrasive first movement and creates a sense of winding down, returning from a fine, translucent slow movement to a finale in which textural dissolution is never far away.

While Decca provides a generous, although unintrusive soundscape for the Sixth, Chandos, releasing the Third Symphony as part of Nemes Jari's cycle with the Royal Scottish Orchestra (Chan 9117/8) offers less of a spread of acoustic space. Jar-

vi's Mahler, too, is on the sober side. For the composer, this symphony was "something such as the world has not heard before"; yet we hear less of the shock of the new and more the loving, respectful reconstruction of the accepted.

This is not to diminish Jari's performance, but to indicate its scale and its priorities. With the clarity of its quiet, detailed passages and its delicate balancing of textures, the symphony becomes more a magic picture-book, less a Nietzschean drama of the soul.

When Nietzsche's words actually appear, Linda Fianne's voice comes into focus from the very heart of the orchestra. Her mezzo-soprano has the dark, true alto range so necessary for these songs. There is a trace of a raw wobble when the voice is under pressure; but this is later artfully used to focus the anger, even the horror, within the pain of the *Kindertotenlieder*.

HILARY FINCH

## Number one with a bullet — or a knife

Ice Cube grows rich rapping everything that offends him — most of the world, it seems

### ROCK RECORDS

This week, the American rapper Ice Cube achieved what neither Madonna nor R.E.M. were able to do. His new album *The Predator* (4th & Broadway 514 351) entered the *Billboard* US chart at No 1, finally toppling Garth Brooks. Barely a week after release, Cube's album is already close to registering its millionth sale, an astonishing performance by any standards, and one which seems curiously at odds with the rhetoric on the liner notes which reminds us of "white America's continued commitment to the silence and oppression of black men".

Cube, who in the past has been far from silent about his unpleasant views on a range of subjects, is naturally full of self-righteous fury in the wake of the Los Angeles riots, although in the accompanying press release he confesses that, "I loved... every bit of it".

With its grim catalogue of songs glorifying murder ("Now I Gotta Wet 'Cha"), riot ("We Had To Tear This M.F. Up") and misogyny ("Check Yo Self", "Don't Trust 'Em", you name it), *The Predator* is the perfect distillation of a gangland culture that has descended into a morass of mindless violence and unchecked machismo, where any sort of homicidal sentiment may legitimately be expressed whether or not it is dressed up as a response to the unwavering racism of American society, and where no insult is too foul-mouthed, especially if it is directed against a woman or, better still, a homosexual.

And yet there is a highly stylised and self-regarding quality to all this gritty urban realism that suggests Cube may be peddling a line in wet dream violence that is not so far removed in tone from



Ice Cube: taking violence off the streets and into the studio

Madonna's fantasies about sex. The album is clogged with gloating references to the firestorm of media controversy provoked by his own pronouncements in the past, while the unrelenting expressions of rage and hatred are peculiarly one-dimensional, almost cartoon-like in places.

On only one number, "It Was A Good Day", is anything approaching a positive emotion allowed to surface. When some Top 40 American radio stations seized on this song, with evident relief, and began playing it, the president of Cube's record company was not amused.

"We are not sure we want that kind of image to be the first thing new fans are exposed to," he told *Billboard* without apparent irony.

Meanwhile, the American techno-hardcore group Nine Inch Nails have had the promotional video for their song "Happiness In Slavery" banned outright by the British

Board of Film Classification, a very rare occurrence. The video apparently features graphic images of the "performance artist" Bob Flanagan undergoing extreme physical torture before being dropped into a coffin and supposedly turned into mince meat.

The song is taken from NIN's new album *Fixed* (TVT 514 321), which features "various interpretations" of songs that have already featured on their Top 20 album *Broken*, (TVT/Interscope 514 147), released earlier this year. An essential companion to the earlier album, on *Fixed* the nastiness is even more carefully crafted, the sounds of pain, damage and destruction tweaked and elevated to an exquisite pitch of artistic expression.

As an illumination of the dark side of human nature this has considerably greater resonance than the badmouth posturing of Ice Cube.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Satchmo and much more

### IMAGINE

### JAZZ RECORDS

the routine: 30 songs a night, in city after city, for week after week. "Muskat Ramble" following "Indiana" and "Basin Street Blues" in an endless procession. Somehow, Louis Armstrong and his All Stars maintained that almost masochistic schedule for 20 years or more.

From the purist's point of view, it was a period when Armstrong frittered away his talents on crowd-pleasing antics. Yet the most striking feature of *The California Concerts* (MCA/GRP 4-6132) — a four-disc set covering two shows from 1951 and 1955 and including much previously unissued material — is the extraordinary consistency of his performances.

There are, it must be admitted, one or two lapses in taste, but the overwhelming impression is one of a masterful all-round entertainer surrounded by musicians who were perfectly attuned to his needs.

The first concert, taped at

the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, has the services of Earl Hines and Jack Teagarden, who joined forces on a stunning version of "Body and Soul".

By the time of the second recording, made at the Crescendo Club in Hollywood, Hines and Teagarden had departed, to be replaced by the impish Trummy Young and Billy Kyle, who may have been a less colourful soloist than Hines but was an accomplished rhythm player.

Barney Bigard's instantly recognisable clarinet is present on both dates. So too is Velma Middleton, the beefy singer-contra-vauvillian whose contribution was frowned upon by many contemporary critics.

A great blues singer she definitely isn't, yet she conveys an irrepressible air of geniality on even the wobbliest numbers.

CLIVE DAVIS



Genius at rest: Louis Armstrong enjoys the horn of plenty

## ORANGERIE ITALIANA 1992

The International Fair of Italian Art and Antiques at the Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1BS

9th - 18th December 1992  
Monday - Friday, 11am - 7pm  
Saturday - Sunday, 11am - 4pm

A series of lectures on aspects of Italian art will take place during the fair.

For further information and advance tickets: 071 235 3474

### TIMES DAY OF GASTRONOMIC EXCELLENCE

## A Waterside luncheon

- ☐ Champagne reception
- ☐ Six-course lunch with five classic wines
- ☐ Table talk by Michel Roux

Food is one of life's pleasures and dining out at a good restaurant is a special treat, particularly just before Christmas. So we invite you to join *The Times*, the international award-winning chef Michel Roux, and Douglas Morton of Baron Philippe de Rothschild for a gastronomic Day of Excellence at the Waterside Inn, Bray, Berkshire, on Saturday, December 19.

Your welcome starts with a reception at which Champagne Henriot Réserve Baron Philippe de Rothschild 1981 will be served.

The superb six-course lunch which follows, created and prepared by M Roux himself, will be accompanied by five classic wines from the House of Baron Philippe de Rothschild. During the lunch, M Roux will explain the finer details of such a repast and answer any of your questions.

The setting for this Day of Excellence could not be better: a beautiful dining-room that overlooks the river Thames in the 16th-century village of Bray, between Windsor and Maidenhead.



Finest fare: a Waterside welcome from Michel Roux

Invitations are limited for this special lunch, which starts at 12.30pm and costs £90 per

person, including champagne, wines, service and VAT. We advise early application.

Please reserve a table for \_\_\_\_\_ guests at *The Times Day of Excellence* at the Waterside Inn, Bray, on Saturday, December 19.

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I enclose my cheque made payable to *Times Newspapers Ltd*  
Value £ \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque)

Post coupon and remittance to: *The Times Day of Excellence*, Promotions Department, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Closing date for bookings is December 11

## THE SUNDAY TIMES Christmas Style

Get set for Christmas with *The Sunday Times Style* section — including top tips on shopping, fashion (forget the little black dress — make an ornament of yourself), quality food, choice wines and seasonal recipes

### PLUS

Christmas Survival Guide — a 24-page special supplement with the Magazine

Make the most of the festive season — don't miss *The Sunday Times*







CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Heathcliff**. Animated adventures (r) (1224018) 6.25 **Eureeka's Castle**. Music and cartoons for the under-fives (r) (5135327) 6.55 **Goats**. Giddy, 13-part guide to life (Teletext) (s) (1113593) 7.25 **High 5**. Freestyle skiing (2645232) 7.55 **Trans World Sports**. International sporting news (s) (1430688)
- 9.00 **News summary** (4923785) 9.15 **Racing: The Morning Line** (5481765)
- 10.00 **Kabbadi**. Men's final between Punjab and Delhi (r). (Teletext) (s) (81650)
- 10.30 **Gascozza Football Italia**. Paul Gascoigne takes his weekly look at the Italian league (69018)
- 11.30 **American Football**. With Gary Imlach and Mick Luckhurst (r) (6037)
- 12.00 **Sign On: News Watch**. A look at some of the important news events of November. With signing and subtitles (40230)
- 12.30 **Songs and Memories**. Meher Moos offers advice to travellers and selects her favourite film songs (76143)
- 1.00 **The Friend**. Russian animation (4055682)
- 1.15 **Channel 4 Racing from Chatsworth**. (1.25) **Thames Valley Eggs**. Following: Henry Villi Novices' Chase. 1.50 **William Hill Handicap Hurdle**. 1.55 **Handicap Hurdle**. 1.58 **Handicap Hurdle**. 2.30: **Mitsubishi Shogun Triple Creek Trophy** (3.00) (7651124)
- 2.00 **Film: Stage of the Sixties** (1963). Medieval romp starring **Ronald Lewis** as an outlaw who saves King Arthur (Mark Dignam) from the treacherous Edmund of Cornwall (Ronald Howard) and wins the girl (Janette Scott). Directed by Nathan Juran (739124)
- 5.05 **Brookside**. Omnibus edition (r). (Teletext) (s) (3068105)
- 6.30 **Right to Reply**. Viewer John Jones examines the BBC's new proposals for accountability and discusses them with BBC governor Sir Kenneth Bromfield. (Teletext) (s) (696)
- 7.00 **A Week in Politics**. Three conservative MPs with different views on Europe debate what each wants to see come out of next week's summit in Edinburgh (1211)
- 8.00 **The Big Battalions**. Brian Cox and Jane Lapotina star in this drama about faith and fanaticism. The arrival of American soldiers defeats Martha and David into dangerous territory (r) (Teletext) (7258)



**The best of British humour: host Jonathan Ross (8.05pm)**

**A jokey message on safe sex: Morris Gleitzman (9.00pm)**

**9.00 Sex**

9.00 **Sex:**  
● **CHOICE:** A Channel 4 contribution for Aids Awareness Week is a spoof documentary from Australia in which a fictional interviewee (Morris Gleitzman) asks five young people about their sex lives and uses the format to deliver frank messages about the importance of safe sex. The programme is clearly based on the theory that the best way to preach safe sex is not to be stuffy about it. Amidst the propagandist jokes abound, some of them very funny. One is about the man who was so embarrassed about asking a chemist for condoms that he bought the shop. While applauding the point of the show, traditionalists may balk at its assumption that for today's youngsters falling into bed is as frequent and natural as brushing one's teeth. There is no suggestion that sex has anything to do with love.

10.00 **Film:** *Les Valseuses* (1974) starring Gérard Depardieu and Patrick Dewaere as two delinquents joy-riding their way across France and taking everything life has to offer. An exuberant, amoral film, directed by Bertrand Blier. In French with English subtitles. (35434747)

12.15am **Let The Blood Run Free:** Spoof medical soap. Mrs Good meets a stranger and Dr. Goodid unveils his new motor. (5553)

12.45 **The Serpentine:** Joelle Holland is joined by Steve Vidor, Courtney Pine, Lou Rawls, John Moloney, Kiti Hollerbach and Jeremy Hardy (c) (941948)

1.45 **The Word** (r) (c) (938032)

2.45 **Film:** *Pain Nine From Outer Space* (1958, b/w). Tatty science-fiction tale, once voted the worst film of all time, about a man fighting against space aliens who raise the dead to fight their

**10.00 Silent Movie (1976)** Comedy with Mel Brooks as a film producer (B4683)

[illegible]

**ALVIN KARPIS: Prisoner of War** (1990)  
 4:10 Garmond in the true story of a US Army  
 aviator who was captured by the Japanese and  
 the enemy (57331). Cuts at 5:50

**SPORTS MOVIES GOLD**

4:45 **45 And Then There Were None**  
 (1945), b/w; Agatha Christie's whodunit  
 starring Barbara Fitzgerald (6236382)

5:00 **Dr. Who and the Daleks** (1965); Peter  
 Dinklage (121191) Agatha Christie's  
 6:00 **Summer of '42** (1971) A teenager falls  
 in love with a widowed war bride (7814965)

6:15 **After the Sun Shines** (1975) Agatha  
 Christie's novel. Ben Burley supports her  
 (4017572). Ends at 11:25

**THE MOVIE CHANNEL**

6:30 **3000 Miles to Arizona** (1975) Agatha  
 Christie murder mystery (56653)

6:45 **Murder Mystery** (1957) Trevor Howard as  
 a detective (450211)

7:00 **10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33 or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39 or 40 or 41 or 42 or 43 or 44 or 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52 or 53 or 54 or 55 or 56 or 57 or 58 or 59 or 60 or 61 or 62 or 63 or 64 or 65 or 66 or 67 or 68 or 69 or 70 or 71 or 72 or 73 or 74 or 75 or 76 or 77 or 78 or 79 or 80 or 81 or 82 or 83 or 84 or 85 or 86 or 87 or 88 or 89 or 90 or 91 or 92 or 93 or 94 or 95 or 96 or 97 or 98 or 99 or 100** (1987/4)

7:15 **Agatha Christie's Murder Mystery** (1957)

7:30 **Agatha Christie's Murder Mystery** (1957)

7:45 **Agatha Christie's Murder Mystery** (1957)

8:00 **Agatha Christie's Murder Mystery** (1957)

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1:15 **Agatha Christie's Murder Mystery** (19

## VARIATIONS

[illegible]

## HTV WEST

**ENGLA**  
As London except 5:00-5:15 **Anglia News**  
(329269) 12:30-1:30 **Jave** and the **Fat Man**  
(1148)

**ORDER**  
As London except 1:10-1:40 **Granada**  
cont. (2496925) 5:00-5:15 **Border News**  
(329269) 12:30-1:30 **Firm Women** in the  
(246761) 5:10 **Ian McCulloch** (718522)  
1:30 **Hi Man** and **Hi** (27509) 4:00  
(264598) 7:15-7:30 **The Big E**

**CENTRAL**  
As London except 5:00 **Central News**  
(329269) 5:05-5:15 **The Central**  
cont. (263310) 12:30-1:30 **Texas**  
(37341) 3:30 **The Law** and **Mary**  
(329269) 4:30-4:55 **Crim** and **Atm**  
(329269) 5:00-5:15 **Amnesia**! **Top Ten** (1951)  
(329269) 5:15-5:30 **Good Rockin'** **Tonight** (3851443)  
(329269) 5:30-5:30 **Jabloner** **22** (226322)

As London except 5:00-5:15 **HTV West**  
**News** and **Sport** (3032965)

**HTV WALES**  
As **HTV West** except 1:10-5:15 **HTV Wales**  
**News** and **Sport**

**TSW**  
As London except 5:00-5:15 **The South West**  
**Week** (37695934) 2:10-4:40 **Snooker**  
(57616478) 5:50 **HTV News** (633187) 5:05-  
5:15 **Joe Honeysburn** **Carnion** **Time**  
(2653078) 12:30 **Film** **Wilton in Cages**  
(6355151) 1:30-1:40 **McArthur** (722970)  
2:30 **The Hi Man** and **Hi** (373615) 4:00  
**Teleshop** (7815) 4:30-5:30 **The Big E**

**VOST**  
As London except 1:10-1:40 **VTV Sporting**  
**Deads** (3531114) 5:00-5:15 **TVS News**  
(329269) 1:30-1:40 **The Young Flood** (329269)  
(329269) 1:40-1:50 **News**  
(329269) 1:50-1:55  
(329269) 1:55-1:55

Snooker (19419582)  
Work (5299926) E 05-

[illegible]

**S Film. The Return**  
**Grand Deposition**

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

All these words and more are in the puzzle above. That's Boggle, the fast fun game where you've got three minutes to find as many words as possible. Letters must adjoin but not necessarily in a straight line.

**EVER BEEN BOGGLED?**  
**Boggle®**

## THE 3 MINUTE WORD GAME.

FM S  
ONLY U[illegible]

6.00  
8.20

Wingers 11.90 Go! 12.00 Sport on 4 Plus 1 (as Radio 4 at 9.05am) 12.30pm Sportscafe 1.30  
Sport on Five, with John Inverdale. Football: Premier League — Sheffield Wednesday v Aston  
Villa. Leeds v Nottingham Forest. Rugby Union: London v the Midlands, North v the South  
West. Rugby League: Regal Trophy: Racing from Sandown Park. 3.00 William Hill Handicap;  
12.30 Triple Creek Chase 5.00 Sports Report 5.05 So-So-Six 7.30 Le Top 8.00 Atropop  
12.40 12.45 On the Line and 11.00 Sports 12.00 Sports 12.00 Sports 12.00 Sports 12.00 Sports

ICE All

[illegible]

with Paul Gambacini 12.00 Petroc

...manca with Mel Cooper 7.00 L'Elisir d'Amore. Donizetti's opera, live from the Metropolitan

35.5m Annual (Vocalists): Access  
to Maths - Countdown to  
Epiphany 8.58 World  
00 Record Review. Introduced  
by Paul Guiney, Weber  
(Overture, Peter Schmitt;  
Philharmonie under Neeme  
Järvi); Stanford (Oello Sonata  
No 2 in D minor, Op 38; Julian  
Lloyd Webber; John McCabe,  
George Mathias Monn  
Richard Cerny, (The  
Consort), Haydn Wood (Suite,  
London Carvers) Czecho-  
slovak RSO, Bratislava, under  
Antan Lopiczny (The  
Septet for three female voices  
and string quartet); Mozart  
(Symphony No 36 in C, K425,  
Lin American Baroque  
Orchestra under Ton  
Loompan) 8.00 News

Philharmonico; Schubert  
(Abschied); In der Feme,  
Schonewagenberg with Max  
Lichtegg, (tenor); Brahms  
(Violin Sonata in G, Op 78;  
with George Kulenkamp,  
violin); Bartok (Dances for  
Violin; Philharmonico); Mozart  
(Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen,  
Die Zauberflöte; Vienna  
Philharmonik with Hermann  
Prey, tenor); Kodaly (Suite,  
Harc Jancs; London  
Philharmonico)  
5.00 Jazz Records Requests  
presented by Geoffrey Smith  
5.45 Jazz News, with James  
Naughtie  
6.30 Live from the Met - L'Esprit  
de la Musique  
6.45 CHOC: Donizetti's  
delightful opera raises the

ertain on yet another  
f these live transmi

**Building a Library.** Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*; new releases of late Romantic orchestral music: *Requiem* (RCA); *Requiem* of Issa: Prokofiev (Symphony-Concerto, Op. 125; Philips); *St. John's Passion* (Lorin Maazel with Yo-Yo Ma, cello); *Sibelius* (Scene with Cranes, Op. 44 No. 2. Danish National RSO under Lili Segstam); *St. Matthew's Passion* (presente piano releases).

**12.25pm Rachmaninov** (Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor, the first recording from New York's famous opera house that is among the high points of Radio 3's operatic output). The continuing mail bring new contributions of *The Ring*, *Lulu* of La Marmoreira, *Die Meistersinger* and *Die Fledermaus* at Naxos. Tonight's cast includes Kathleen Battle as Actine, Francisco Araiza as Nemorino, Mark Camacho as Belshazzar and Enzo Dara as Dukacmar. The conductor is Edoardo Müller. Act 2 (at 8.10) begins after the architectural

talk on exploring Ne-

**05** **Slovakia**

**06** **Vernier Quartet – Shmuel Ashkenazi and Pierre Menard,** violins, Richard Young, viola, and Peter Johnson, cello. He performs *Bernstein's* (*Quartet in D*, Op 18 No 3); *Peter Schickels* (*American Dreamer*).  
**07** **Peter Schickels** presents a biography of P.D.O. Bach. Read by Peter Barker 2:05  
**08** **Dvortak** (*Quartet in F*, Op 96, American) 1:10  
**09** **Lamentations of Jeremiah:** Taverner Consort under Andrew Parrott sings two sets of Lamentations by J.S. Bach.  
**10** **Soili.** The Early Years, Natalie Whelan presents a seven-part series on the career of the concert artist and pianist George Soili. In the first programme, Soili remembers her childhood in Hungary, and her clashes with Kodaly and Bartok. Kodály (*Dances of*

**9.15** **The Transilvanians** at the last of his programmes, Andrei Czemielwicz discusses Polish poetry with Donald Dave.

**9.25** **Joséphine MacGrogan:** The classical plays *Barbarossa Suite No 5 in G*, BWV 816; *Suites* (*Three Piccos*, Op 3); *Ravel* (*Naxos 4 nobles at the piano*); Chopin (*Ballade No 4 in F minor, Op 52*) 1:10

**10.30** **Glasgow Jazz Festival:** The Alan Planter introduces the first of two recorded concerts featuring the Carla Eley Big Band. The violinist Alexander Balanescu leads the band to play Bley's specially commissioned piece, *Breath of Firebird*. With *Little Soul*, trumpet, Ray Valentin, double bass, trombone, Andy Sheppard, saxophone, Steve Swallow, and Adam Nussbaum, drums. During the interval, Planter talks to Bley

## RA

3.00 Stereo on FM  
 3.55 Sam Shipping Forecast 6.00  
 4.00 News, 4.15, 4.30, and 6.05  
 4.00 Weather 6.10 The Farming  
 4.00 Week: Oliver Walston  
 concludes his travels around  
 Bolivia 6.50 Prayer for the Day  
 7.00 The Weather 7.05 Today, and  
 7.00 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News  
 7.20 Listeners' Letters 7.25,  
 8.25 Sports News 7.45  
 7.50 The Day 8.25  
 8.00 Weather 8.40 Yesterday in  
 Parliament 8.58 Weather  
 9.00 News 9.05 Sports on 4  
 9.30 Breakfast 9.50 Jockeys with  
 travel and holiday news  
 10.00 News; Loose Ends, with Ned  
 Sherin, John Walters, Emma  
 Freud and Arthur Smith (s)  
 11.00 News 11.05 The World  
 Westminster, with Peter

ical editor of *The*

|        |   |      |   |
|--------|---|------|---|
| 1.30   | <b>Europhile</b> , with Brian Hanrahan  | 5.25 | <b>Tee Junction</b> , with Patrick Harman 5.50 <b>Shipping Forecast</b>   |
| 2.00   | <b>Money Box</b> , with Alison Mitchell   | 6.00 | <b>News and Sports Round-Up</b>   |
| 2.25pm | <b>I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue</b> : Humphrey Lytton chairs the antiride to panel games (S) 12.55 <b>Weather</b>   | 6.25 | <b>Week Ending</b> (S) (H)  |
| 3.00   | <b>News</b>   | 6.50 | <b>The Looker Room</b> : Tony Sewell from <i>The Voice</i> newspaper considers black male identity (S)              |
| 3.10   | <b>Any Questions?</b> Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a discussion on Kirby Lonsdale, Cumbria, and David Mervin, professor of politics at Sheffield University, Sheila | 7.00 | <b>Kaleidoscope</b> : Helena of Chwyd. Paul Allen meets Helena Kaci from the new artistic director of Theatre Chwyd |
|        |   | 7.50 | <b>Classic Serial</b> : <i>The Wrong</i>  |

**director of Shelter,  
ar. MP. shadow**

social security secretary), and Michael Spitzer, MP (p. 1.55) **Friday Forecast**

**2.00 News: *Amnewsmen*** 071-580 4444. Lines open from 12.30pm

**2.30 Saturday Playhouse: *Reactor's Daughter***

**● CHOICE:** Every twist and turn of the plot of Simon Gray's adaptation of J. M. Barrie's novel about an undeclared love betrays the fact that this is not a piece of radio specially for radio. That said, probably no one could have adapted the book more respectfully than Gray or made the play more sensitive than the Morgan. Jute Covington plays the

**8.50 Conversation Piece:** Sue MacGregor meets Eve Newbold, company secretary of *Simon Gray*

**9.20 Music in Mind:** Brian Kay with favourite melodies (p.58)

**9.50 Sun to Ten** (p. 9.55) **10.00 News**

**10.15 Open Mind**, presented by Sarah Baxter and Henry Porter

**10.45 Worlds Apart:** Anna Josephson interviews Ray Brown about her childhood memories of Greece

**11.00 Richard Slater Compares** Names on music for the dance (p. 6)

**11.30 Dear Diary** (p. 11)

**12.42-12.53am News**, and 12.30 **Weather** 12.30-12.40pm **World Service** (LW only)

**REQUENCES:** Radio 1: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; FM 97.5-99.5 and 102.3-104.5m; Radio 2: FM 90.2-92.4; Radio 4: 1584kh/1515m; FM 93.2-94.5m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; LBC: 1158kh/2320m; World 3: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 4: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 5: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 6: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 7: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 8: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 9: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 10: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 11: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 12: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 13: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 14: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 15: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 16: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 17: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 18: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 19: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 20: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 21: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 22: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 23: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 24: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 25: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 26: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 27: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 28: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 29: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 30: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 31: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 32: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 33: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 34: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 35: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 36: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 37: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 38: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 39: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 40: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 41: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 42: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 43: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 44: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 45: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 46: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 47: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 48: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 49: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 50: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 51: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 52: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 53: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 54: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 55: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 56: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 57: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 58: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 59: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 60: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 61: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 62: 1063kh/2285m; 1089kh/2775m; 102.3kh/2433m; 90.8kh/2320m; World 63: 106

Radio 1: 105.3kHz/285m; 108.9kHz/275m; FM-87.5-99.5  
Radio 2: FM-88-90.2 Radio 3: FM-90.2-92.4 Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-

7.3. Capital: 1548 kHz/194m FM 95.8 GLR: 1458 kHz/206m FM 94.9: World



## 17

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Trans World Sport** (r) (433780) **7.00 Take 5** for younger viewers  
(1981977) 7.25 Laurel and Hardy (r) (790478) 7.35 Little  
Wizards. Cartoon (599776) 8.00 Sandolites. Exploits of a pirate  
prince. (46831) 8.30 Wild Kid. Cartoon (1408322) 8.55 Tintin  
Animated adventures of Hergé's classic character (20054) 9.25  
Laurel and Hardy. Comedy (1981977) 9.55 **Danada** (r) (131487)  
9.55 **Filpper**. Adventures of the trenchy dolphin (338936)
- 10.15 **The Lone Ranger** (bw). Vintage series following the adventures of  
the masked hero, his Indian sidekick Tonto and Silver his horse  
(520677)
- 10.45 **Edge to the Bottom of the Sea**. Tales of an extraordinary  
submarine and her captain (312070)
- 11.45 **Little House on the Prairie**. Trials and tribulations of a close-knit  
Kansas plains family (318254)
- 12.45 **Classics**. A series of films (rewards has selection of classics for  
the future in the last of the series (r) (890148)
- 1.15 **Football Italia**. Fiorentina v Juventus (8000247)
- 3.30 **Film: The Secret Partner** (1961, bw). Satisfyingly comic thriller  
starring Stewart Granger as a shipping executive who becomes a  
target for blacked-out assassins by Basil Dearden (826273)
- 5.10 **Night and weather** (7231411)
- 6.15 **High Interest: Swords into Tube Trains**. As pressures mount to  
cut defence spending, this programme investigates the impact on  
defence manufacturers and asks to what extent these companies  
can adapt to civilian life
- 8.00 **The Mifflinwatts Millipops**. Australian fantasy series (167)
- 6.30 **The Cosby Show**. American family comedy. (Telecast) (419)



**Playing it straight:** David Jason turns detective (8.15pm)

- 8.15 **A Touch of Frost**  
 ● CHOICE. After years of Del Boy and other excursions into low-life comedy, David Jason turns straight arrow to play a detective inspector in a highly-promising new police series based on the books of R.D. Wingfield. Jack Frost is an irascible and cynical copper who likes to cut corners and avoid paperwork. He also works punishingly long hours, partly to ease the distress of a wife dying of cancer. In short, he is a rounded and credible character and Jason catches him beautifully. A Touch of Frost has all the qualities of quality drama, with a sense of what is possible to achieve without recourse to foul language and sluggish violence. Tonight's episode, strongly written by Richard Hems, offers an ingeniously structured plot, in which the search for a missing schoolgirl leads to the discovery of a 30-year-old murder. (Oracle) (s) (15273)
- 10.15 **News with Dermot Mulrighan** Weather (952490)
- 10.35 **The New Statesman**. Rascous, unsuited but often funny politicians staring R. Mayall as Sir Ian Steward, the newly elected MEP for Germany. German comedian Gert Fröbe as a German politician. (18177)
- 11.05 **Snoozer**. Nick Owen introduces further coverage of the first semi-final of the Coasle World Matchplay championship from the Doncaster Dome (854032)
- 12.00 **Jam Cue the Music**. American rock guitarist Randy California in concert at the Glastonbury Rock Festival (4307397)
- 1.35 **The ITV Chat Show** (r) (s) (8728804)
- 2.00 **Film: Nairobi Night** (1984). Standard safari adventure starring Charlton Heston as a former big game hunter who teams up with his son to catch a game of ivory poachers. Directed by Marvin J. Chomsky (34568)
- 4.30 **Pick of the Week** with Mark Heyley (41811)
- 5.00 **Grand Prix at Sea**. Highlights of the 1992 Guernsey International 4-litre powerboat race (50804)
- 5.30 **ITN Morning News** (99991) Ends at 6.00

**7.00 Equinox: Tying with the Future**  
**o** CHOICE. The ostensible purpose of this seasonal film on children's toys is to explore how they are being shaped by changing technology. But for a supposed science strand there is not a lot of science, while despite the title the film ranges as much over the past as the future. The result is something of a ragbag with no clear line of argument, though it is clearly of diversion along the way. The film is a delightful look at the Meccano set and its creator, Frank Hornby, who hoped that "Meccano boys" would be clean in thought and habit. There is, inevitably, much on video games, and whether they are helping to create a generation of sedentary and violent children... There are a ponderous contributions from American professors and a tangle from a little girl who complains that "toys are sad" (Tuesdays 15/7/81)

**8.00 Poetry In Motion.** Germaine Greer introduces today's programme, on the theme of women in love. Among her choices are "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways", by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1983)

**8.30 American Football:** Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imlach introduce highlights of the match between the Green Bay Packers and the Detroit Lions (31/8/88)

**10.00 Film: The Longest Day (1962, U).** John Wayne, Robert Mitchum and Henry Fonda are among an all-star cast in this stirring recreation of the allied landings in Normandy on June 6 1944. Directed by Andrew Marton, Ken Annakin, Bernhard Wicki and Gerald Oswald (69/91/76)

**11.55n Film: The Executioner (1982).** Powerful drama about a young girl who is forced into prostitution by her grandmother (Irene Papas) and plots her revenge. Directed by Roy Guerra. In Spanish with English subtitles (88/83/97) Ends at 3.10

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# Nostalgia at the push of a button

Nigella Lawson praises the BBC for allowing viewers to wallow among the televisual Rembrandts and Chippendales



IN THE new marketing argot adopted by the BBC, *The Antiques Roadshow* would, I suppose, count as a "classic" of broadcasting. It thrived on the belief that everyone has some apparently worthless object hidden away in the attic that would, once Arthur Negus had blown the dust off it and polished the maker's mark on his jacket sleeve, be discovered to be worth a fortune. And now it turns out that the BBC's own attic is full of the televisual equivalent of the lost Rembrandt and the Dulux-covered Chippendale: its collection of 120,000 old programmes.

These represented, according to *Panorama* last Monday night, the "gold mine" that could save the BBC. In the past, the BBC vaults were considered to be full of nothing more than summer-season repeats sold on the desperate promise of "another chance to see"; at best, they made for cheap programming, a respectable if unimaginative way to coast along. Their value, if it was seen to exist, was by default stopgaps maybe, nice little earners never. Now, restyled as classics, they are the basis of a whole new channel.

UK Gold, the cable and satellite station which started a month ago, and which was at the nub of this week's *Panorama*, has no news, no documentaries, none of the public-service programming that is the *raison d'être* of the BBC. What it has is 24 hours a day of BBC and Thames TV repeats. It also has something no other BBC station has: advertising.

Melvin Bragg, wearing his editor-of-*The South Bank Show* hat — i.e., the guy from Independent Television who provides the sort of programmes the BBC pays itself on the back for making — claimed foul. He swung a new line in

## TV REVIEW

support of his insistent and increasingly convincing plea that perhaps some of the money from the licence fee should go his and other independent companies' way. There is hardly enough advertising to sustain the existing ITV channels, was his argument, and there will be even less if stations part-owned by the licence-funded BBC start creaming any of it off.

If the BBC is allowed to get money from advertising, why shouldn't the independent channels get some of the public funds? After all, fair's fair, John Birt benignly disagreed. There was, he said, "utter disproportion" in all this: the £1 million that UK Gold was likely to net the BBC over the next year was hardly big bucks — "modest compared to the great sums that flow into the coffers of ITV".

There is obviously a difficulty here. Peter Brooke, the heritage minister, owned up to the unlikelihood of the licence fee rising in the near future, and if in this near future the BBC will drop cheap imports and expensive formulaic programming in pursuit of "distinctiveness" (and what else, frankly, should the BBC be pursuing?), the money has to come from somewhere. UK Gold may be the vulgar money-grubbing villain of the piece for some, but for others it must seem a timely act of initiative, an attempt, as *Panorama* soberly suggested, "to liberate the BBC from the narrowing base of the licence fee". Mr Brooke stayed neutral; all he could really say was that "in personal terms" he was glad, "because I must own up to a liking for archival material".

I must own up to a liking for archival material, too, since UK Gold started I have watched it more than any other station. I must

also admit that I've never been a satellite television's greatest fan: bad US imports, cartoons, phoney wrestling and sports stations packed with such as the Dutch women's tennis bowling bees have so far made extra-terrestrial viewing so much television for the dim-witted.

OK, so there's CNN and Sky News, too, but I've yet to be convinced they are the boons to civilisation their supporters claim them to be. Until now, I have rather sympathised with my grandmother's line on the whole business. When asked whether she would like a satellite dish "to augment her choices", she replied, sensibly enough, that there were already four channels with nothing on she wanted to watch, why should she want 40 channels with nothing on either?

The choice, however, was made for me, and there I was, stuck with it. I had a bit of fun with *Rai Uno* for a while: even if it is rivetingly bad, it is at least in Italian, which helps. And one can at least feel one is being educated, even if the entertainment factor is on the dire side. But the whole idea of niche marketing for television is distressing.

Part of the joy of television is in its variety, and that variety does provide a useful service. If you watch a game show and then hang around to watch a documentary you might not otherwise have thought you wanted to see, you might gain something. It's a bonus. The *Reithian* legacy is too valuable to be cast aside, however much fashionable opinion may noisily hold to the contrary. But a separate little niche, a separate channel, for repeats: there is sense in that.

There is also a great deal of pleasurable wallowing. For there are few things more suited to the



Old gold: William Hartnell, Trevor Eve, Anita Dobson, Leslie Grantham, Warren Mitchell, Leonard Rossiter, Terry Scott, June Whitfield

gratification of nostalgia than television programmes. And a day's viewing — take Monday's for example — that takes in early *Neighbours* (Jason and Kylie before they grew up and hit the big time), *EastEnders* (remember Den and Angie?), *Dr Who* in the dark ages with William Hartnell, *Terry and June*, *Shoestring* (Trevor Eve at his most regally appealing), *After Henry*, *Dallas* (before JR got shot), *The Duchess of Duke Street* and *The Bill*, is enough to turn anyone into a couch potato. OK, so the programmes tend to get repeated so often that by the end of the day you're word perfect on the script of *The Bill*, but that's only a minor drawback.

It's interesting to see, too, how

programmes have changed. Comparing an early *EastEnders* to the slick programme it has become is a lesson in the evolution of soap. The UK Gold version is rough-edged and fumbling: characters seem to wait a good minute between lines, the plot creaks along. The up-to-date BBC offering has everything cracking along, fast and angry.

Soap operas are meant to cement with the viewer some idea of the family, of belonging to it, and I have, rather sheepishly, to own up to feeling rather as if I were being shown old home movies of family friends as I see a young Sharon putting because Angie won't let her stay out until 11 o'clock, or a spotty

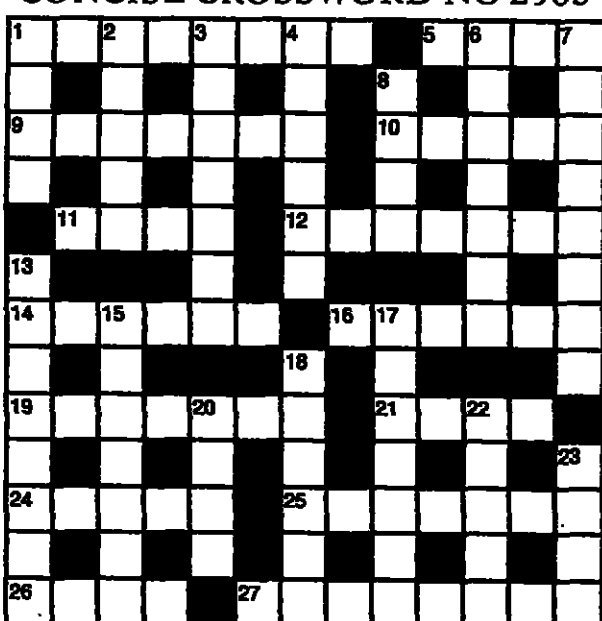
teenage Ian sobbing on his nan's knee because Pete's been teasing him about wanting to learn how to cook. Was it only so few years ago? Haven't they all grown up so fast?

Some programmes, like *Casualty*, have since done a bit of tinkering with their image. The comic elements have all but been done away with (along with some of the aggro), and why, even Nurse Duffy's lost her West Country accent. Reginald Perrin is as good as I remembered. *A Very Peculiar Practice* even better. Conversely, I watched *The Goodies* or *The Young Ones* in disbelief: I used to laugh at this, this rag week on videotape!

UK Gold's press release, issued at its launch, made much of the fact

that recession has boosted television viewing figures, and in truth, there is a slightly recessionary feel to the channel. Not so much because of the bread-and-circuses element — undeniably there — but so far, at least, it is a bit of a job lot. There is a hint of unspoken streetside bartering: Den and Angie, *The Bill*, not once, not twice, but three times darlin', and for you, love, at no extra cost, go on, treat yourself, just sit yourself down and make yourself comfortable. But even the BBC is made of more than soap operas and sitcoms, and if UK Gold begins to dip more selectively into its archives, it may soon provide some of the consistently best viewing, or rather re-viewing, on television.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2963



### ACROSS

- 1 Unforthcoming (8)
- 5 Pigeon pea (4)
- 9 Blind writing system (7)
- 10 Correct (5)
- 11 Saw cut (4)
- 12 Enduring (7)
- 14 Inn (6)
- 16 Important man (3,3)
- 19 Hanging curl (7)
- 21 Slash (4)
- 24 Little island (5)
- 25 Tyro (7)
- 26 Happy (4)
- 27 Wake-up bugle (8)

### DOWN

- 2 Deep red (4)
- 3 Banquo rank (5)
- 4 Summon (4,3)
- 7 Irritate (6)
- 8 Path gravel (7)
- 9 Lawsuit party (8)
- 10 Scallop-edge knife (4)
- 13 Very hungry (8)
- 15 Cooking pod (7)
- 17 Ungrateful person (7)
- 18 Machine gun from air (6)
- 20 Plaster wood strip (4)
- 22 Pull up (5)
- 23 Arboreal plant (4)

### SOLUTIONS TO NO 2962

ACROSS: 1 Quindecim, 7 Trucks, 8 Intrusive, 9 Red, 10 Bout, 11 Betray, 13 Enigma, 14 Unique, 19 Douche, 20 Pill, 21 Car, 23 Laborious, 24 Slice, 25 Hamless.

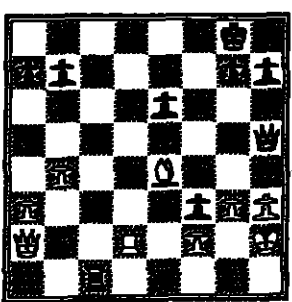
DOWN: 1 Quibble, 2 In trust, 3 Trug, 4 Drivel, 5 Scary, 6 Aside, 7 Terrine, 12 Scruple, 15 Quixote, 16 Enlists, 17 Phobia, 18 Bossy, 19 Druid, 22 Grim.

### WINNING MOVE

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This is a variation from the game *Sher* — Smagin, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Masters 1990. Black has sacrificed a piece and forced the white king into a tight corner. How does he now complete the rout? This year's Hastings tournament features the Hungarian prodigy Judit Polgar. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500.

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The



answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday. Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Qxh3+. The winners are: W. Laurie, Enfield; V.Y. Zamvar, Southampton; R.F. Pallett, Slough.

### WORD-WASHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

**SPILORE**  
a. To turn hay into the sun  
b. Merry-making  
c. The wet of a shoe

**SUBRISION**  
a. Conspiracy  
b. Smiling  
c. Being taken by surprise

Answers on page 2

## Everyone's a comedian tonight

### ● The British Comedy Awards 1992

(tonight, ITV, 8.05pm)

Jonathan Ross pronounces on the best of the year's comedy output. This year sees a supposedly democratic development: you the viewer can vote for who you want to be "top comedy personality". You have till 9.45pm this evening to phone 0891 400701 for Clive Anderson, 0891 400702 for Rory Bremner, 0891 400703 for Angus Deayton, 0891 400704 for Harry Enfield, 0891 400705 for Paul Merton, and make your contribution to televisual history — if you can be bothered.

### ● A Touch of Frost

(Sunday, ITV, 8.15pm)

David Jason appears in a new and rather different guise in this feature-length police drama, the first in a three-part series, in which he plays Jack Frost, a rough, tough cop who, underneath a

### TV PREVIEW

rasping and shambolic exterior, nurses a private grief. This straight part is light years away from Pa Larkin and Del Boy.

### ● Unnatural Pursuits

(Monday, BBC2, 9pm)

The first of Simon Gray's two-parter (which concludes on Wednesday at 9.30pm) in which the superb Alan Bates plays Harnish Part, a heavy drinking, chain-smoking playwright who travels across America supervising the production of one of his plays, with ludicrously funny results. Simon Gray denies the piece is autobiographical, though parallels may be difficult to resist.

### ● Food and Drink

(Tuesday, BBC2, 8.30pm)

Under the charming, affable stewardship

of Chris Kelly, this remains the most consistently informative and entertaining food programme on television. This week it shows a mini-documentary following John Burton Race, who has just come back from Madrid, where he won unaccustomed culinary honour for Britain by coming top in a competition of European chefs at the International Academy of Gastronomy. The programme also reveals the findings of a comparative tasting of cheap champagne and sparkling wines.

### ● Clive Anderson Talks Back

(Friday, Channel 4, 10.30pm)

In the last in what has emerged as a cult series, Clive Anderson yaps with the American queen of backchat, Joan Rivers. I'd put my money on our boy coming out with fewest scratches.

N.L.



Pretty boys: Manic Street Preachers give deliberately provocative interviews that distract attention from the music

## Preaching revolution for real

Caitlin Moran on a band known equally for mutilation and music

Oh, these pretty, pretty boys in their second-hand glamour and cheap make-up and Marilyn tattoos. The Manic Street Preachers preach DIY instruction for the bored and the lonely and the powerless: they come from "urban hell" — Wales — and they vow "to destroy rock 'n' roll". Well, it's about time.

Fronted by James Dean Bradfield, whose strut, choice of trousers and scuffed-up/coughed-up vocals echo Bruce Springsteen, with perhaps a hint of Tina Turner, the Manics came together in 1988 — four schoolfriends conspiring to bring about the Pop Apocalypse in their bedrooms. From the very beginning, the Manics had a manifesto: rage against the ordinary; sexual equality; stay beautiful. As the music scene at the time was top heavy with fiercely "ladish" bands like The Farm and Happy Mondays, the Manics' brand of glittery androgyny and deliberately provocative interviews swiftly earned them buckets-loads of controversy, and gigs where the air was alternately filled with flying beer cans and the sweaty bodies of loyal fans.

Richie Edwards is the sometimes guitarist and ideas machine in the Manics: he has that patented aura of rockstar hanging around him, and looks like all the cool members of the Rolling Stones put together. University educated, fearfully articulate and overwhelmingly charming and polite, he sits curled up on the hotel bed and explains the

### Manic Street Preachers' original plan

"In the beginning, when we formed, we wanted to sign to the biggest record label in the world, put out a debut album that would sell 20 million and then break up. Get massive and then just throw it all away. By the time we were giving interviews and saying that to the press, though, we didn't believe it. We knew we couldn't quite do that. But if we had aimed any lower in the beginning, I don't think any one would've paid as much attention to us."

The Manics have had a lot of attention paid to them. A veritable carload of the stuff. In May 1991, NME journalist Steve Lamacq interviewed the band after a gig, and remained unconvinced by their burning rhetoric and hyperbolic proclamations: the Manics were just a Welsh re-



hash of the Clash and, in short, Lamacq didn't believe they were "for real". Ritchey took a razorblade from some place, rolled up his sleeve and carved the words "4 REAL" into his left arm.

It required 17 stitches and the pink scar-welts across his skinny white forearm remain as a testimony to the Manics' utter, consuming belief in the band and their message. "4 REAL" is a piece of rock 'n' roll mythology, up there with Hendrix burning his guitar, Lennon instructing the Queen to rattle her jewellery, and Jagger deciding to have that fifteenth paisley-pained limousine.

Self-mutilation is a very female thing to do: to externalise their rage, men blame it on someone else. Women will internalise their rage, and take it out on themselves. "What you say is

probably true," Edwards says. "In Wales, the women are as bored as the men, but the men will go out to the pub and beat the s\*\*\* out of everyone else: the women will stay at home and concentrate on surviving."

"A lot of girls, of 14, 15, love the band," Nicky Wire, the Manics' glamorous bass-player, says. "I think they see us raging on their side. I hate men. Males don't seem to have any self-control any more; something catches their eyes and they don't see why they shouldn't have it."

The Manics inspire fiery devotion in their fans: hardcore Manic fanatics reportedly follow Ritchey's lead and carve "4 REAL" into their arms, too. Of course, all this press-perfect controversy makes it stupidly easy to ignore the music. *Generation Terrorists* (Columbia Records, all formats) released earlier this year, is 18 tracks of crunchy, fuzzy power chords, riot-inspiring samples, lyrics that read like lists of Glamorous Rock Things which only occasionally rhyme — sometimes, you feel, accidentally. Half the tracks aren't necessary, but the other half... four-minute bursts of hunger, and aggression, and raked gorgeousness — like "Motorcycle Emptiness", the utterly beautiful, strung-out ballad-type thing, "Culture sucks down words... Hurt, main, kill and enslave the ghetto/Each day living out a life/Life's sold cheaply forever."

The Manic Street Preachers — the first up on stage when the revolution comes.

"I'll watch current affairs programmes just for work, but I really enjoy watching *The Clothes Show* as I'm an absolute pushover when it comes to fashion. There's a real good factor in seeing all that amazing haute couture and the beautiful models. You think to yourself, 'I might be over 25 and my bum might be halfway down to my knees but there's hope yet...'"

● Laura Fitzsimmons is president of the National Union of Students

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